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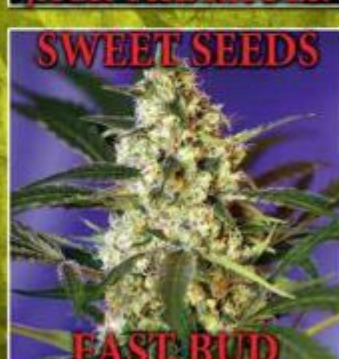
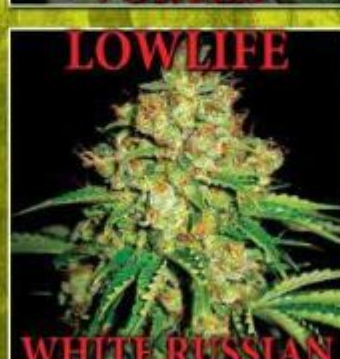
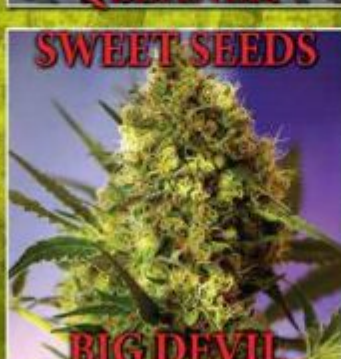
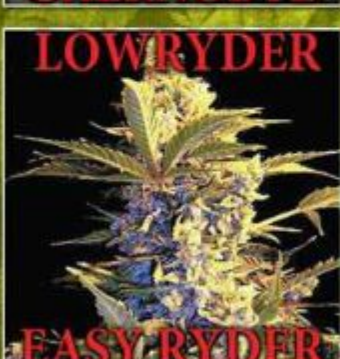
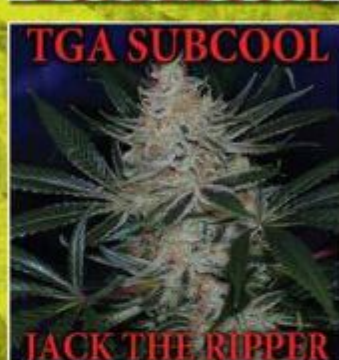
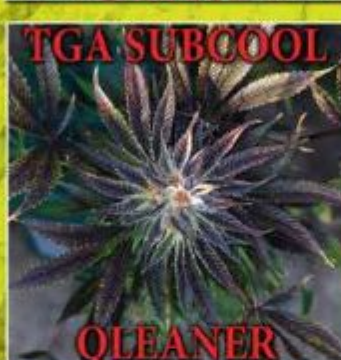
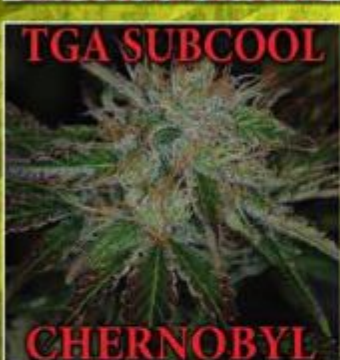
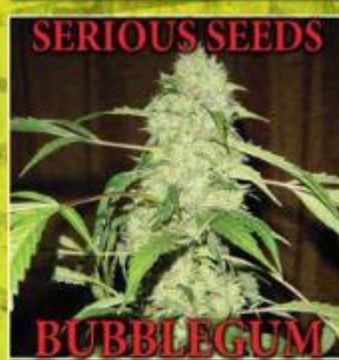
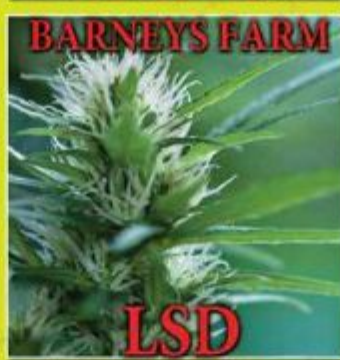
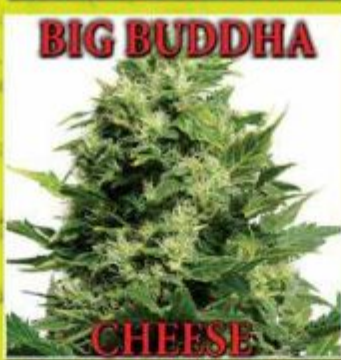
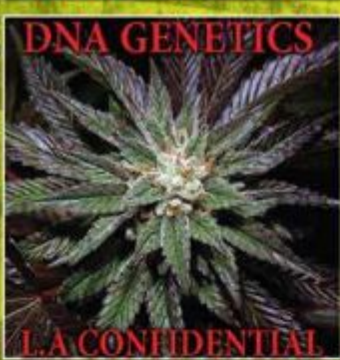
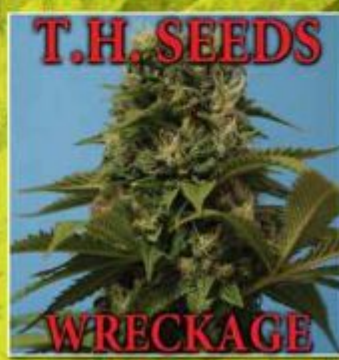
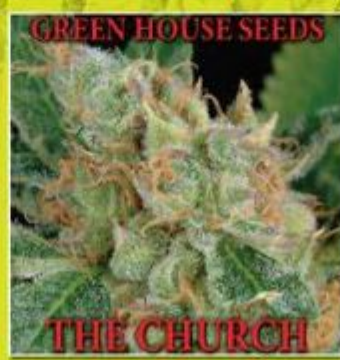
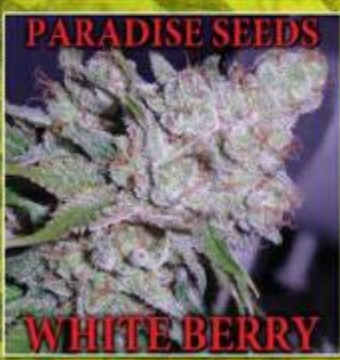
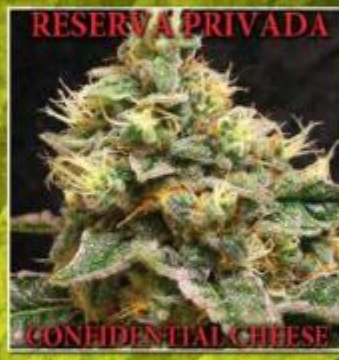
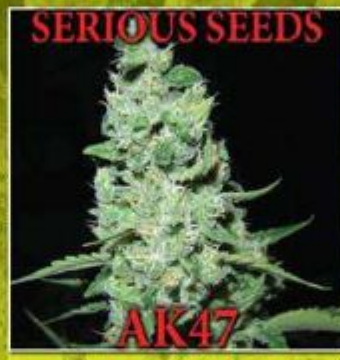
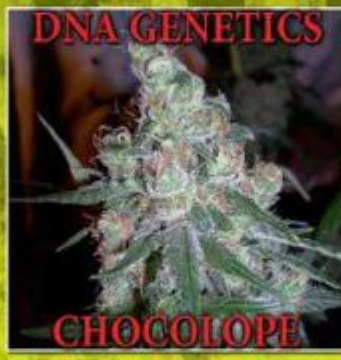
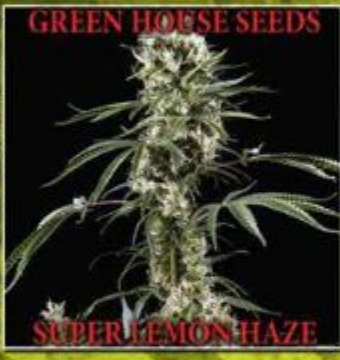
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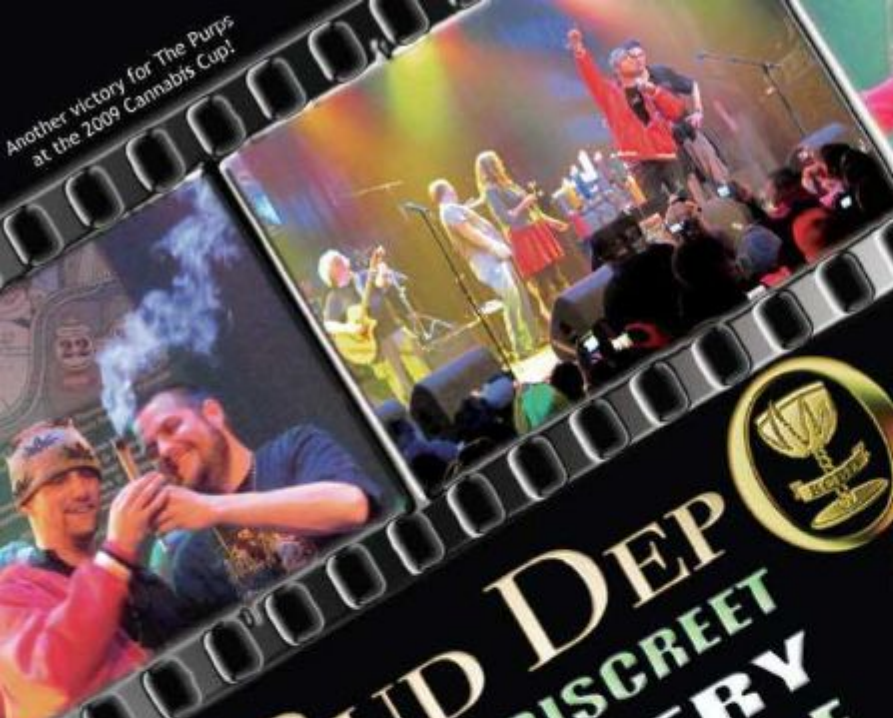
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FANTASYLAND

If you smoke pot, it's a pretty safe bet that you spend a fair amount of time thinking over the vagaries of life—age-old questions like “What the fuck am I doing here?” and “Where the fuck am I going next?”

They're fair questions. But if you want answers, we're just as lost as you are.

That doesn't prevent us from contemplating the Great Mystery in all its facets. We like UFO tales, conspiracy theories and weird, spooky stuff. That's why stories like that go in our magazine.

In this particular issue, you'll find your fair share. Senior editor Chris Simunek explores the world of Bigfoot in his investigative report chronicling the true believers who hunt the mythic beast.

Creative director Steven Hager takes on the CIA and its use of LSD in mind-control experiments. Did America's best-known spy agency really dose an entire French village in the 1950s just to watch them trip? Or are we living in Fantasyland?

Maybe. We're certainly always fantasizing about massive, flourishing gardens—that's why we're covering the Colorado cannabis phenomenon once again, as well as events like the Las Vegas Flameoff, where top glass artists give glorious flight to their fantasies.

And that's why we offer the very best in marijuana education—so you can fulfill your own fantasies. Check out this month's seminar on advanced breeding. Then learn how to get rid of the little creatures that infect your plants and break your heart. Plus, Canadians who grow medical pot show you how to make your buds bigger and better, eh?

Fantasies come in all shades of green. Sometimes they're incredibly stinky. Here's to yours!



Is Bigfoot pilfering gardens across the Northwest?

FREEBIE

Phantasmagorically,

Dan Skye

Dan Skye
Executive Editor

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FEATURES

36 COLORADICAL

BY DAN SKYE

The marijuana explosion in the Rocky Mountain State continues to reverberate. Two outstanding medical gardens demonstrate that the tenacity of Colorado activists and the expertise of growers are paying off with outstanding medicine for everyone.

44 HOW STRAINS ARE MADE

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Ever wonder if all those glorious strains actually exist, or are they just made-up figments of a dealer's imagination? Well, here's your answer: Of course they exist! And this introduction to breeding shows you how they're made, taking you through the basics and right into advanced breeding concepts, explaining along the way how seeds are created and how hybrid strains come into existence. A great piece for any grower or connoisseur who fancies himself an expert of the *Cannabis Kingdom*!

54 FOOT SOLDIERS

BY CHRIS SIMUNEK

It is said that Sasquatch has haunted the wilds of the Pacific Northwest since before the white man first set foot in America. *HIGH TIMES* searches the Cascade Mountains in a quest to find the legendary beast. Could this elusive animal possibly exist—or are we just smoking something way too strong?

64 CANADIAN HYBRID HYDRO

Cannabis correspondent Erik Biksa tours a Canadian medical-marijuana facility where specialists utilize a combination of techniques—old and new—as well as pure ingenuity to grow huge pot plants for patients in need.

80 THE CIA'S LSD ATTACK

BY STEVEN HAGER

An entire French town mysteriously went insane during the summer of 1951, and after nearly 60 years, we finally know what really happened.

88 CYPRESS HILL RISE UP

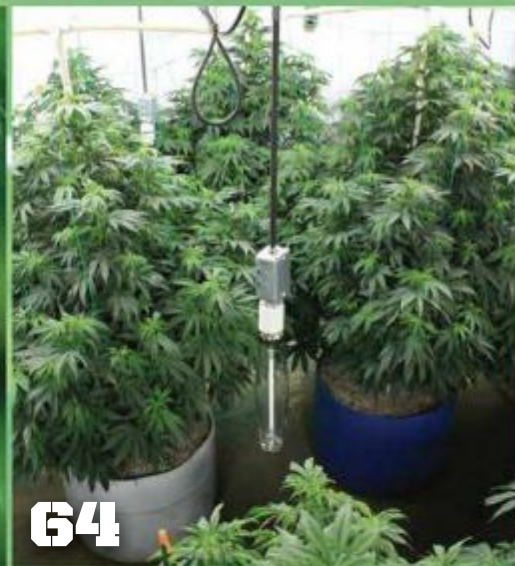
BY JUSTIN HAMPTON

The world's stoniest hip-hop trio are back with a bong! B-Real, Sen Dog and DJ Muggs return after a long hiatus with more of those evergreen stoner anthems we all know and love so well. *HIGH TIMES* travels to their home turf in Los Angeles for an exclusive smoking session.

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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO
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140 POT 40

COVER: LOCHFOOT STRAIN: OG KUSH
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FEEDBACK

BIG BUD COUNTRY

I'm a Montana resident, and I loved the article on "Big Sky Buds." It said there were over 4,000 registered cannabis users, with an additional 2,000 expected over the next six months. Well, it turns out that by the end of 2009, over 16,000 patients were registered, and it's estimated that we are now at over 20,000 as of February, with doctors' offices booked solid for two months and a waiting period of six to eight weeks for a medical card, as the state is swamped with applicants. So it's only a matter of time before full legalization/regulation is considered. Keep it up, Montana!

MegaMontana

HOT GLASS

Hey, HT! I'm a big glass aficionado, and there's nothing I love more than a clean piece. I just wanted to suggest an easy way to clean out your gear for all the readers like me: About a tablespoon of salt and a half-cup of rubbing alcohol will clean any glass you have. Add the ingredients and shake vigorously (just be sure not to let go of your precious piece!), then wash with warm water and enjoy!

Love the mag—keep on fighting the good fight!

J.

APRIL RULES

Thank you for printing Dr. Grinspoon's op-ed in your April 2010 issue. I am interested in Rick Simpson and hope that the medical community will soon begin to investigate his work. However, wild claims that his oil can cure *anything* are hard to believe purely on anecdotal evidence. Also, great article on home-built aeroponics—more DIY-type info, please.

MC Freak

THMQ Q

Just want to say I've been reading HIGH TIMES since 1976, so thank you! Over the years, it's been a source of excellent information for me and my friends.

I do, however, have a question (or maybe a complaint): Why is it that THMQ is never listed in the table of contents? Every month, I have to search the mag page by page to find it. As I'm now getting a little old, this has become a very repetitive process. We make use of this info as a baseline reference quite often.

Pope of Alaska

THMQ is usually found on the same page every month—on page 20 (as in "420"). Remember it!

STINKY SITUATION

I live in Colorado and have been to several dispensaries in my area, and it seems that all the weed here smells the same. I'm not sure what indoor growers are using, but it sure leaves a sweet, pungent smell to all the strains. For instance, Skunk #1 smells like Purple Kush? When I lived in California, Skunk smelled like a



skunk. Please help me and many other patients understand why all the strains around here—some 50 or more—smell the same?

Sonya

GET THE LED OUT?

I am very enthusiastic about LED technology, so you can imagine how bummed I was to open the May 2010 issue and read Nico Escondido's "Maximizing Medicine" piece, especially this sen-

tence: "... LED lights ... fall short when it comes to creating large yields and growing healthy plants." I think that people who purchase LED lights expect lower yields, but the news that plants might not end up being healthy wasn't something I'd heard before. It also seems to contradict Nico's prior report on LEDs, in a May 2009 piece: "... LEDs like the UFO have produced yields similar to or better than their HID counterparts in initial trials (see results in final section)." Can you please explain to me why LEDs seem to have fallen out of favor at HT? I love your magazine because it provides inspiration and encouragement to a wide range of potential growers. I am concerned that anyone who was inspired to purchase expensive LEDs last year—understanding their relative limitations, of course—might now feel like a dumbass or sucker.

SoCal Sally

CUP HELP

I wanted to ask if you had any pointers on the cheapest way to go to the Cannabis Cup. I am a true smoker, 30 years strong, but I live in Louisiana and, since Katrina, all we get is trash. I have always wanted to go to the Cup, but I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma a couple of years ago ... went through the chemo and even had a few months of remission, but now the beast is back, meaner than before, and I am sure that now is the time to start doing the things on my "bucket list."

I know there's no real *cheap* trip to Amsterdam, but I was hoping that you might know a few tricks to shaving a few bucks off. I would really like to smoke the best pot in the world before I die—for a stoner like me, that would be my greatest accomplishment next to my daughter. Anyway, any advice you could offer would be appreciated.

Cathy

Hey Cathy, sorry to hear about the recent diagnosis. Stay strong, and we hope that you get through it. Maybe you can run a fundraiser to get you to the Cup. You can start a website and have people donate. People have big hearts and like to help others get their dreams accomplished. We'll be seeing you sooner than you think.

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A VERY CHIC IRON SHEIK

Once you've reached the pinnacle of the professional wrestling world, what more do you really need in life?

Apparently, a bong.

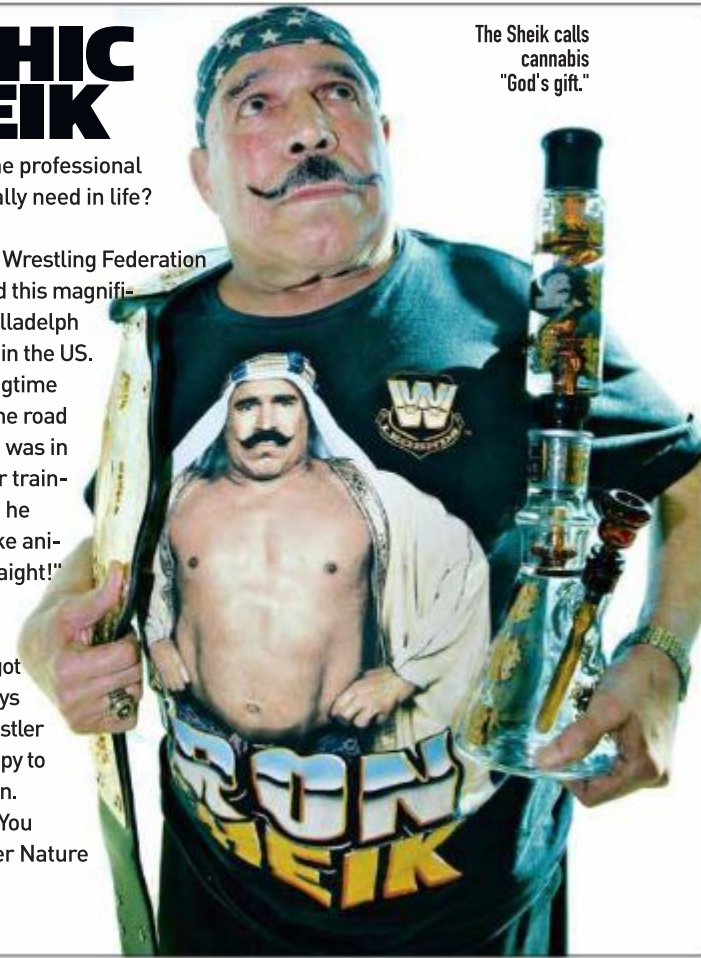
The Iron Sheik, who held the World Wrestling Federation title until Hulk Hogan defeated him, had this magnificent waterpipe bestowed upon him by Illadelph glass, one of the premier glass studios in the U.S.

The reason? The Iron Sheik is a longtime cannabis fan who says that toking on the road was fairly commonplace back when he was in the ring. He was especially fond of it for training purposes. "Before I go to the gym," he says, "I would smoke and I would be like animal. I could work out for two hours straight!"

At 67, the Sheik is now retired and makes frequent public appearances. He moves a little slower now, but he's still got that fiery, demonstrative spirit that always draws a crowd. The former Olympic wrestler and bodyguard to the Shah of Iran is happy to have cannabis as his constant companion.

"It is God's gift," claim the Sheik. "You should use it in moderation, but Mother Nature gave it to us and I am happy for that."

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The Sheik calls cannabis "God's gift."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Officials in Colorado can't handle the flow of applications for the state's medical marijuana registry. Applications have nearly quadrupled from a year ago averaging about 1,000 per day. Bureaucrats are asking for more personnel to deal with the avalanche. In fact, the state health department said it would no longer review applications for accuracy at the walk-up window.

Meanwhile, the National Football League draft was held in April. This year, the draft picks were exceptionally high. NFL insiders estimated that 10 or 11 of prospective first-round picks were known pot users. Another NFL head coach estimated that "one-third" of the players that his team was considering drafting had marijuana experience.

On the flip side, the University of Montana banned medical marijuana on campus even though the state has approved the medicine for state patients. University officials fear losing federal research funds by allowing students to legally medicate.



A helium balloon...

HIGH-FLYING IDEAS

Did you get busted during the recent Global Marijuana March because you were enjoying your joint a bit too freely? Our sympathies. Next time, follow the example of the legendary paraphernalia innovator known as Joe Pipe. Joe has used everything from Life Savers to Frisbees to create smokeware, but his latest innovation may save your ass.

Tie the string of a helium balloon around your joint. When the cops move in, let go! Bye-bye balloon, Bye-bye bust!



...saves you from doom and gloom.



POT AND THE PENTAGON SHOOTER

In March, John Patrick Bedell emerged from Internet obscurity by opening fire on two Pentagon security officers. He was killed when they returned fire. In no time, the 36-year-old "Pentagon shooter" was being described as an enigmatic drifter, a "genius" computer programmer, a nanotechnology enthusiast, a conspiracy theorist and a Democrat who attended right-wing Tea Parties.

Of course, it came as no surprise that mainstream-media outlets chose to emphasize the fact that Bedell cultivated and smoked pot. (He used cannabis in an attempt to treat his bipolar disorder.) Bedell was simultaneously profiled as a whack job who used medical marijuana and as a serious drug addict with a pot problem that extended far beyond the realm of responsible self-medication.

San Benito County Supervisor Reb Monaco, a family friend for years, described Bedell as a "brilliant young man" suffering from a "severe pot addiction." Though Monaco insisted that he wasn't blaming marijuana for Bedell's mental illness—which he acknowledged had been getting worse for at least 15 years—he did opine: "I certainly don't think that helped."

Actually, it doesn't seem like much of anything did, especially since Monaco concluded that "myself, his family, even law enforcement, have done everything they could do legally," but Bedell refused treatment. So why pick on pot for not "helping" (assuming, of course, that it didn't—nobody in the media has explored the notion that his pot use kept Bedell from cracking up a lot sooner). After all, the vast majority of people who smoke pot—including those who use it medically to treat psychological disorders—have never gone on a shooting spree at the Pentagon. But, needless to say, that didn't stop the press from playing up Bedell's pot use as a sign of his mental instability.



Obama loses a huge voting bloc.

ANY QUESTIONS?

The Obama administration is proving to be no different than past anti-pot Presidents. In March, White House Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske held a private talk before police chiefs in California. He stated: "Marijuana legalization—for any purpose—is a nonstarter in the Obama administration. The costs of legalizing marijuana would outweigh any possible tax that could be levied." As for medical cannabis, he said, "Science should determine what a medicine is, not popular vote."

TRUE HOLLYWEED STORIES

What if the E! network covered pot? We'd probably hear which strains were hooking up and all kinds of other hot, juicy ganja gossip.

STRAIN	ANCESTRY
White Widow	Green Diamond had her eyes set on Panama Red. But Panama Red was married to Blueberry. While trying to murder Blueberry, Green Diamond accidentally killed Panama Red instead.
Cheese	Lemon Ice and Carmelicious got stuck in an elevator together. Nine weeks later, Cheese was born.
NYC Diesel	Question: If A-Train left Grand Central Station at 4:19 and headed down the track at 420 mph, where would you bury the survivors of the Trainwreck, and what kind of train was it? The answers: NYC, Diesel.
AK-47	A volatile mixture of Special K and Beladonna. Pow!
Sweet Island Skunk	Himalayan Gold and Jamaican Pearl had a torrid love affair. Sadly, it ended—but the smell still remains.
LA Confidential	Afghani couldn't keep a secret and Northern Lights could. Northern Lights told Afghani to get bent and went out west, where she still lives as a recluse to this day.
G-13	G-13 claims she's God Bud's kid as the result of a Immaculate Conception of Mary Jane, but she's actually the Green Devil's spawn. Remember, you didn't hear it from us.
Fourway #1	Smokey Bear couldn't see through the Purple Haze and Strawberry Coughed her way through a White Cloud.
Bubblegum	Bazooka got stuck in a strange position with CannaSutra. The rest is history... sticky history.
Purple Urkel	Granddaddy Purps made a mess all over Swiss Miss. When confronted about her clumsy behavior, she replied, "Did I do that?"

MADAM GOVERNOR?

Former high-end madam Kristin Davis is running for governor of New York. Davis, who spent four months in Rikers Island prison after a conviction for promoting prostitution, says her campaign was partially inspired by the injustice of her serving time while former Governor Eliot Spitzer (whom Davis claims was among her freakier clients) walked away without any charges filed against him after getting caught on a wiretap arranging a meeting with a prostitute. As governor, Davis says she would legalize not just prostitution, gambling and other "victimless crimes," but gay marriage and recreational marijuana use as well. She recently shared her views on freeing the weed with us.

Why did you decide to include legalizing marijuana in your platform?

Marijuana legalization fits my basic campaign philosophy, which favors both economic and personal freedom. It's also common sense. New York State is broke—we have a \$9.1 billion immediate budget deficit, and billions more in long-term debt. Meanwhile, New York has millions of people who would gladly pay a reasonable tax on marijuana if the criminal aspects were removed and quality was ensured. Not to mention the thousands of jobs legalization would create, which we need desperately in this state.

How did you first become interested in this issue?

I myself am not a user of any drugs, and I drink very little, but I feel strongly about other people's freedom to indulge. Frankly, I'm sick of the government telling individuals what they can and cannot do, particularly when the political class abuses the system, robs the state blind, and lacks any moral authority to tell New Yorkers how to behave properly.

Do you think marijuana is an aphrodisiac?

I imagine it depends on the individual. The few times I used marijuana growing up, I found it made me introverted and less social. It has the opposite effect on other people, and I'm sure for many of them it is an aphrodisiac. To each his own.



Bloomberg in a spoof of *Hair*, a pro-pot Broadway show.

Since 1997, nearly a half-million people have been busted in New York City for possession of small amounts of pot. That works out to about 100 pot busts each day. In fact, in 2008 alone, over 40,000 people were arrested and jailed for possession of small amounts.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg obviously has no problem with the siege on pot smokers. In March, he told reporters: "One of the problems of legalizing marijuana is marijuana keeps getting stronger and stronger, the Health Department says. It may very well lead to greater use of drugs, which isn't good. And while I've always thought that people have a right to, as long as they are not hurting anybody else to do what they want, I guess if I had to vote today, which I'm not asked to vote, I would vote against legalizing marijuana."

Not only is Bloomberg hopelessly clueless on the latest cannabis research, he is also—how shall we put this?—a hypocritical piece of shit. Before he became Mayor, he was asked if he'd ever smoked.

"You bet I did. And I enjoyed it," he replied.



Kristin Davis carries the ball for legal pot in New York.

MAYOR PUTZ

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THE BIKE TRIP

Martin Dockery's one-man show dramatizing his bicycle journey over the route that LSD discoverer Albert Hofmann took as he experienced the world's first-ever acid trip is not to be missed. Dockery's play weaves through San Francisco, Goa and his own awkward childhood before finally peaking outside Hofmann's home in Switzerland. The anecdotes and tales are all stitched together by a common thread—LSD. *The Bike Trip* is a quirky, energetic show fueled by Dockery's acid experiences, and he's definitely not a performer who shies away from uncomfortable situations. His play is one that any acid user can relate to, world traveler or otherwise.

You still have a chance to see this remarkably beautiful and offbeat show: Dockery will be performing *The Bike Trip* at festivals from Florida and Arizona to Ontario and Manitoba. Visit martindockery.com.

POT VS. BOOZE

A study recently conducted by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley suggests that cannabis is useful in treating people who heavily abuse alcohol or other dangerous drugs. In a survey of 350 cannabis users conducted at the Berkeley Patients Group, 40 percent of the respondents said that they used cannabis to control alcohol cravings; 66 percent said they used it as a replacement for prescription drugs; and 26 percent said they used it instead of other, more potent illegal drugs.

The study's lead researcher, Amanda Reiman, also noted that 65 percent of the people surveyed said they used cannabis because it has fewer adverse side effects than alcohol, pharmaceuticals or illicit drugs; 34 percent because it has less withdrawal potential; and 57 percent because it provides better symptom management.



Lift your glass high!

A high stepping cause.



WALK HARD—AND HIGH!

A lot of Americans are fed up with the government, but few will go as far to prove it as 26-year-old Connecticut native Dan Gervais. To protest "80 years of lies and propaganda" about marijuana, and to raise awareness about the diverse uses of hemp, this one-man Tea Party has decided to walk across the entire country using only hemp products for his food, clothing and supplies.

Dan's "War on Lies" Walk began on April 20 at Boston Harbor and will end at Santa Monica Beach on November 4—about 3,300 miles in 28 weeks. "It's a very ambitious pace," Gervais admits, "but I want to be in California before the election." Along the way, he'll campaign for medical marijuana in Massachusetts, champion decrim in Rhode Island, promote hemp-farming rights in the Midwest, advocate reduced sentencing in Utah—and, of course, crusade for full legalization in California's upcoming election.

"I'm trying to inspire those who aren't involved," he says. "I'd like anybody who believes in this cause to come join the walk. Whether it's 10 feet or 10 miles, the more people who participate, the bigger the statement."

Emerald of Sun River, OR, and the Hempest of Boston, MA, have made hemp-product donations to Dan's walk. Check out his full schedule and route at waronlies.net.

BARRY COOPER BUSTED

Super narc turned guerrilla filmmaker Barry Cooper was arrested and charged with filing a false police report in Florence, TX. Cooper became a polarizing figure after leaving law enforcement and using his narc knowledge to teach potheads how to avoid detection with his *Never Get Busted Again* DVD. Recently, Cooper set his sights on exposing corrupt cops through sting operations designed to catch them breaking the law. It was during one of these stings for his Internet project, "KopBusters," that Cooper was arrested for reporting a suspicious package on the grounds of a middle school. The cops say that Cooper planted the package (which contained a crack pipe) himself in order to film the responding officers' actions.

After his arrest, the cops obtained a warrant and searched Cooper's home, where they found a small amount of pot—less than a gram, according to sources. By all accounts, it's somewhat unusual for a search warrant to be issued in connection with a false-report case, a misdemeanor. Perhaps Cooper has finally succeeded in motivating Texas law enforcement to try to put him away. Visit nevergetbusted.com.



Was Barry singled out?



Lance wins the straight way.

A DOG'S WORLD

In March, Lance Mackey won the Iditarod, the grueling dog-sled race across Alaska, for the fourth straight time.

Mackey, a throat-cancer survivor with a medical recommendation to use cannabis,

has been candid about using pot in past races. Perhaps that's why Iditarod officials announced that they'd be testing "mushers" as well as their dogs for performance-enhancing drugs. But Mackey raced without pot and won anyway, clocking the second-fastest time ever. Mackey wasn't surprised, though he was obliged to remind the world: "It's a dog race, not a human race."



God ignores Tommy.

BIBLE STUDIES

Former heavyweight boxing champion Tommy Morrison was busted in Kansas for pot last March, but he insisted the case is "not what it seems." Morrison had a spiritual explanation for the bust:

He said he was sitting in his car outside a Wichita gym, reading his Bible and meditating prior to a workout, and someone must have thought he looked suspicious and called the police. Morrison allowed the cops to search his car, and they found a box with a pipe inside that had marijuana residue. Morrison added that he hadn't known what was in the box.

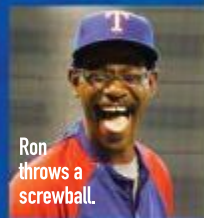
The Lord moves in mysterious ways.

THIS MONTH IN

SPORTSBUZZ

WASHINGTON'S LAUNDRY

During spring training, it was revealed that Ron Washington, the manager of the Texas Rangers, tested positive for cocaine last season.




Ron throws a screwball.

According to news reports, Washington told the league and Ranger management that he'd only snorted that one time ever. He also offered his resignation, but was allowed to keep his job because, well, everybody makes mistakes. A few days later, Washington disclosed that he'd also smoked pot and popped amphetamines during his playing career.

Baseball fans will recall that back in the '80s, when Washington played, cocaine use was rampant in Major League Baseball—so it's a bit hard to believe that he did his first line at age 57. Predictably, Washington used nonsensical, blustering jock-speak to defend himself: "These people know Ron Washington. I am a good person. No, I'm not a good person—I'm a damn good person. And I'm proud. And I fight. And I'm hungry. And I made a mistake."

Sounds like he's still on blow.

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Hacky Sacky took second place in the Female Flameoff.



Adam G performs intricate work on his winning, squid-like creation.

FLAMEOFF IN VEGAS

Superstar artists of the glass-pipe industry square off in the biggest competition of the torch ever! Story & photos by Dan Skye



Ghost and Chaz in a long line of torches.



Eusheen used a power drill to perfect his piece.

If you're a fire marshal in Las Vegas, how do you respond when 49 glassblowers wielding torches hotter than 1,500°F ask permission to compete against one another in a local convention hall? Well, generally, you'd say "No, thanks." And that's what the organizers of the Las Vegas Flameoff faced right up until the last hours prior to the event. Oxygen tanks, propane tanks, miles of hose snaking across the convention floor, plus a kiln for every contestant, not to mention carbon-monoxide levels that would require constant monitoring ... which all begs the question: Why even bother?

"It crossed my mind," admitted the Flameoff's lead organizer. "I wondered, 'Why am I doing this to myself?' But we ultimately pushed through the obstacles and mounted the best fucking event the glass-pipe industry has ever seen!"

No argument here—and it's about time! For the past 20 years, the paraphernalia industry has not only revitalized the art of glassblowing, it has also taken the lead in developing new techniques, tools and materials. Moreover, "pipers," as this new generation of blowers calls itself, are undisputedly the top artists working in the medium of glass—period. So what better way to promote and honor their achievements than to mount a competition with \$45,000 in prize money at stake?

Once the Las Vegas Flameoff organizers finally satisfied the safety concerns of city officials, the artists got underway working in a wide, oblong bullpen. With all of the torches pointed outward, the circling crowds were treated to an intimate perspective on the skill and intense concentration required to create a glass pipe.

The contestants were divided into three categories. The industry's top dudes—those who have displayed a high degree of artistry over the past decade and whose work is widely known—fought it out in a Masters division, while the top women competed in a Female Flameoff. Glass-smokeware companies were able to get in on the action by backing top pipers in a



Top artist Julie Riggs at work. Tammy Ball took third for an homage to Cheech & Chong.



Elite artist Banjo works on a 1957 Chevy.



'I'm just getting started. This is my first flameoff, and I never expected this.'

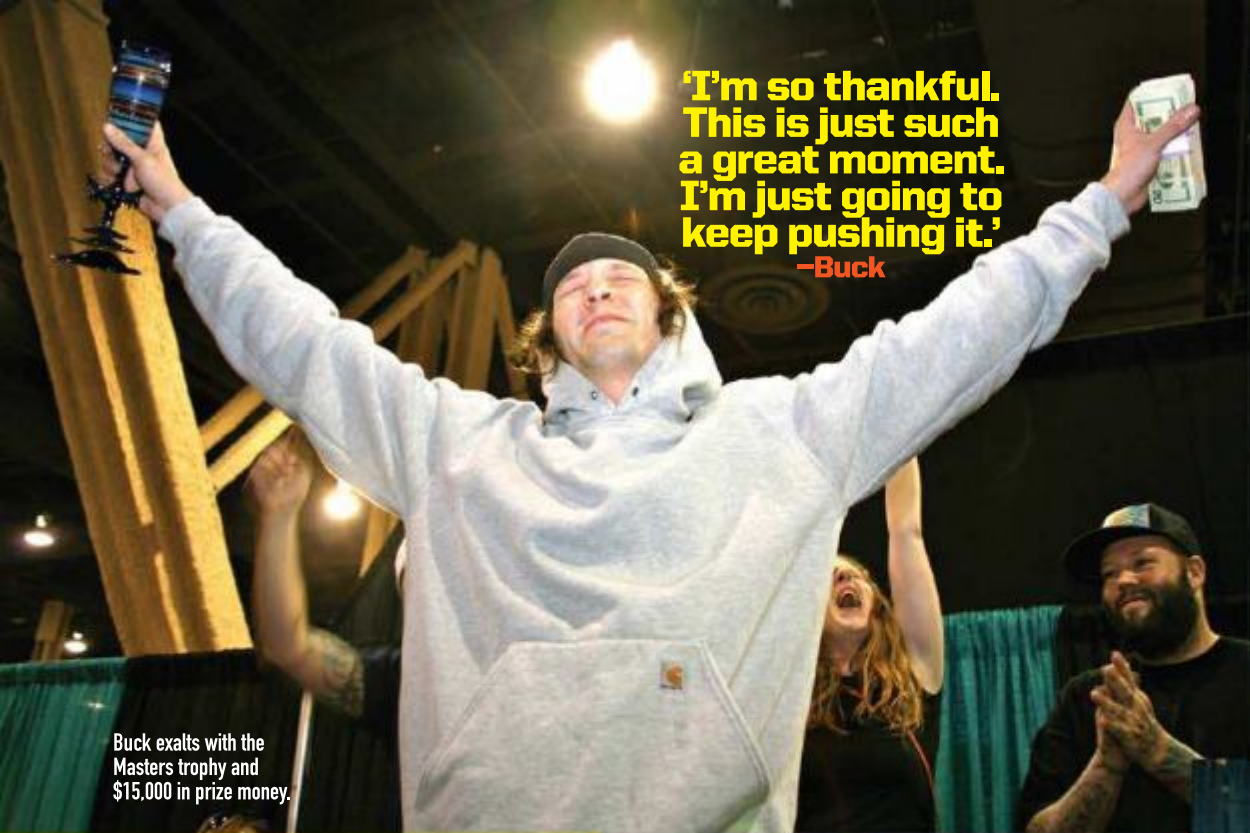
-Laceface



Laceface won the Female Flameoff with a whopping 65 percent of the vote.

Buck's open-jawed piranha hooked the top prize in the Masters division.





'I'm so thankful. This is just such a great moment. I'm just going to keep pushing it.'
 —Buck

Buck exalts with the Masters trophy and \$15,000 in prize money.



Laceface's winning piece titled "On the Rise."



Champion Laceface is all smiles.



Buck's piranha won by one vote.

Sponsored Artist division. However, sheer artistry transcended category. Creations of outstanding originality were produced in all divisions.

Competing in the Masters division were artists like Brock, Marcel, Banjo, Darby, Ghost, Chaz, Nate Dizz, Dellene Peralta, Salt and Eusheen, all of whom would definitely merit their own bubblegum cards if there were a Major League Baseball of glass. But it was the unheralded, relative unknown Buck who blew away the competition with his startling, open-jawed "Piranha." Then again, considering that Ghost created a doped-out alien, Darby crafted a ray gun, Nate Dizz fashioned a pot plant that lit up, and Banjo built a '57 Chevy, it should come as no surprise that a frightening, flesh-eating fish was able to hook the popular vote. (The Flameoff's attendees served as the judges.) In fact, competition in the Masters division was so close that Buck edged Eusheen by only one vote. (Note to Eusheen: Your brother forgot to vote, so blame him.)

The legendary Banjo was tickled, even despite his own loss. "All of us big dogs were favored," he said after Buck's win. "We got our asses handed to us, and I couldn't be happier. This is the most important, most significant event ever in flamework glass."

Chaz chimed in: "We're a family here. Every artist is working within themselves, but the event is still a huge team effort." Chaz and Banjo are best buds who have known each other for 10 years, but the Flameoff gave them the chance to meet their industry cohorts and finally put a face to the artists whose work they've long admired.

Speaking of faces, it was Laceface who took the Female Flameoff crown for "On the Rise," an elegant piece adorned with an emerging goddess, which garnered a whopping 65 percent of the vote. Laceface has been working the torch for five years and has studied the female form intensely. All the

same, "I'm just getting started," she says. "This is my first flameoff, and I never expected this. But I've been making a series of these pieces where the recurring theme seems to be emergence, or rising up. I'm coming to realize that this is me—I'm the one who's emerging."

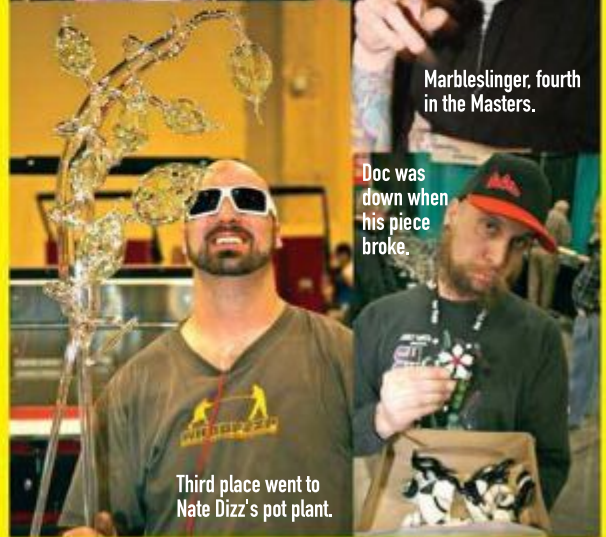
In the Sponsored Artist division, Adam G walked off with the top prize for his squid-like smoking instrument, demonstrating once again that imagination was the key element for the judges when it came to determining a winner.

After the awards ceremony, the winners were amazingly humble—even with a brick of cash equaling \$15,000 clutched in their hand. "I'm so thankful," said Buck. "This is just such a great moment. I'm just going to keep pushing it."

Which, according to the Las Vegas Flameoff's organizers, is precisely their plan, too. "Nothing like this has ever been done," said one. "We're contacting the *Guinness Book of World Records* to confirm it. And if they say we haven't, we'll definitely do it next time around. We're pushing it." ✨



A victory pose for Adam G.



Marbleslinger, fourth in the Masters.

Doc was down when his piece broke.

Third place went to Nate Dizz's pot plant.

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Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

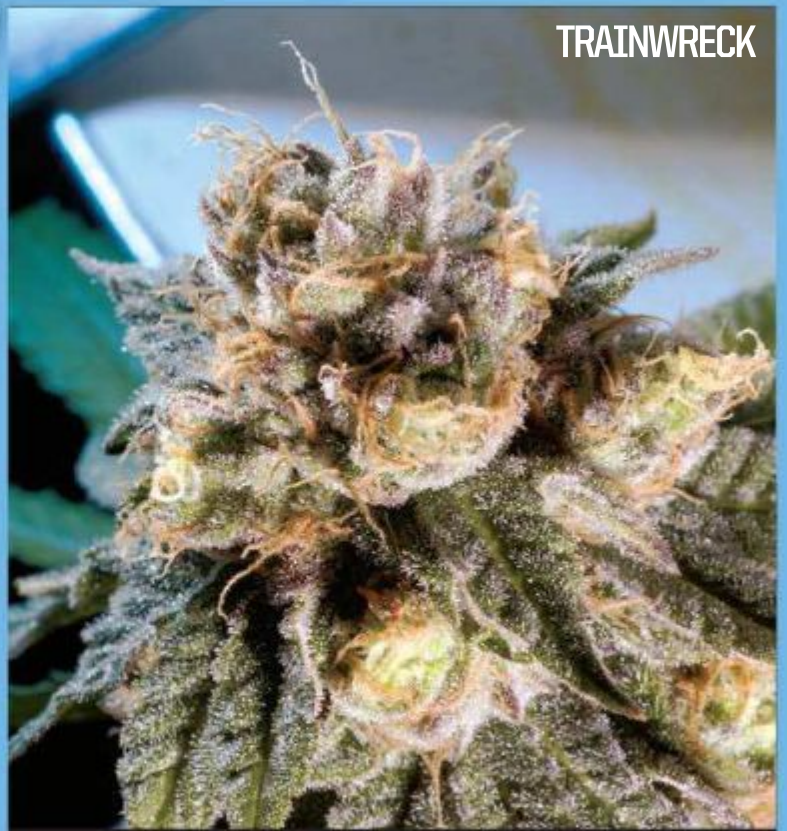
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$359** (last month: \$373; YTD: \$360)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$418** (\$420, \$429)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$281** (\$298, \$278)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$95** (\$105, \$94)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Birmingham	Mids	\$120
	Mobile	Purple Kush	\$360
		LA Confidential	\$380
ALASKA	Anchorage	White Widow	\$400
		Northern Lights	\$300
FLORIDA	Brevard County Tampa	Sweet Diesel Granddaddy Purps	\$480 \$500
GEORGIA	Johns Creek	Lavender	\$485
	Macon	C-99	\$400
	Savannah	Lamb's Breath	\$550
HAWAII	Honolulu	White Widow	\$280
ILLINOIS	DuQuoin	Super Skunk	\$520
	Rockford	God Bud	\$425
INDIANA	Elkhart	White Widow	\$400
MAINE	Bangor	White Rhino	\$300
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Chiesel	\$400
		Juicy Fruit	\$400
MICHIGAN	Grand Rapids	Trainwreck	\$350
		Purps	\$420
	Newport	Blueberry	\$350
MINNESOTA	Stillwater	Hindu Kush	\$400
	Winona	Purple Kush	\$380
MISSISSIPPI	Meridian	Schwag Chronic	\$90 \$450
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	C-99	\$300
		LA Confidential	\$300
NEW YORK	Syracuse	Granddaddy Purps	\$500
	New York	Sour Diesel	\$480
NORTH CAROLINA	Greenville	Blue Dream	\$400
		Purple Wreck	\$400
OHIO	Wooster	Sweet Tooth	\$325
OKLAHOMA	Oklahoma City	Blueberry	\$300
		OG Headband	\$300
		Trainwreck	\$290
		Sour Diesel	\$350
OREGON	Portland	Super Lemon Haze	\$275
		G-13	\$260
		Granddaddy Purple	\$260
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh State College	Blueberry Dutch	\$400
		Mr. Nice	\$375
		Purple Mist	\$410
SOUTH CAROLINA	Lexington	Sensi Star Blue Dream	\$490 \$480
TEXAS	Austin	Sour Diesel	\$480
VERMONT	Burlington	Northern Lights	\$380
		Sweet Island Skunk	\$400
VIRGINIA	Charlottesville	Lemon Kush	\$400
INTERNATIONAL	(prices in Canadian dollars or British pounds)		
CANADA	St. Catharines	G-Spot Diesel	C\$250
	Toronto	White Widow	C\$200
SCOTLAND	Aberdeen	Kind	£375



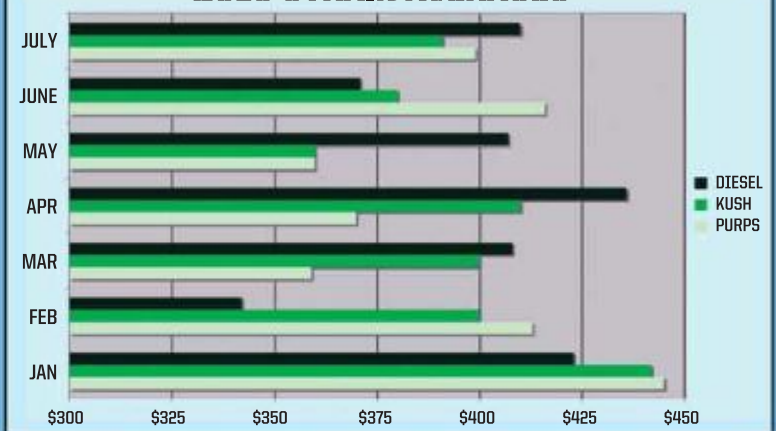
MARKET ANALYSIS

For the first time this year, we have a new strain in the top pot spot. Purps beat out Kush as July's most submitted strain; the last time Purps recorded a first-place finish was in August 2009. Kush's recent run as the THMQ's top submitted strain lasted six consecutive months (January through June 2010)—the longest such streak since we started tracking the top strain submissions in August 2007. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Purps (\$399), Kush (\$391), Diesel (\$410), Blueberry (\$362) and Trainwreck (\$364).

Index Watch: All indices were down from their previous month's average. However, the most significant price drop was only \$17 (in the Mids Index). All indices finished within \$11 of their year-to-date averages. It appears the market is stabilizing after a tumultuous May, in which the US Price Index hit a four-year low.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

2010 STRAIN AVERAGES



Mids - \$120

Birmingham, ALABAMA

"Strain? I live in Alabama and we're just lucky to get weed, let alone anything with a name! Haven't had anything with a name since I lived in Florida 11 years ago!"

Lavender - \$485

Johns Creek, GEORGIA

"Extreme smells of wonderful skunkiness radiate from the jar. It has light purple hints all over the buds, and it may as well be snowing when I grind it up, because kief just pours off the buds! We love this stuff."

Granddaddy Purps - \$500

Syracuse, NEW YORK

"Forest green with beautiful purple hues. Has a very unique, fruity taste and a very strong smoke that burns slow. This extremely sticky bud gives you an uplifting high."

Purple Wreck - \$400

Greenville, NORTH CAROLINA

"Strong, skunky aroma and very dense nuggets with hues of purple. Gets behind your eyes almost instantly!"



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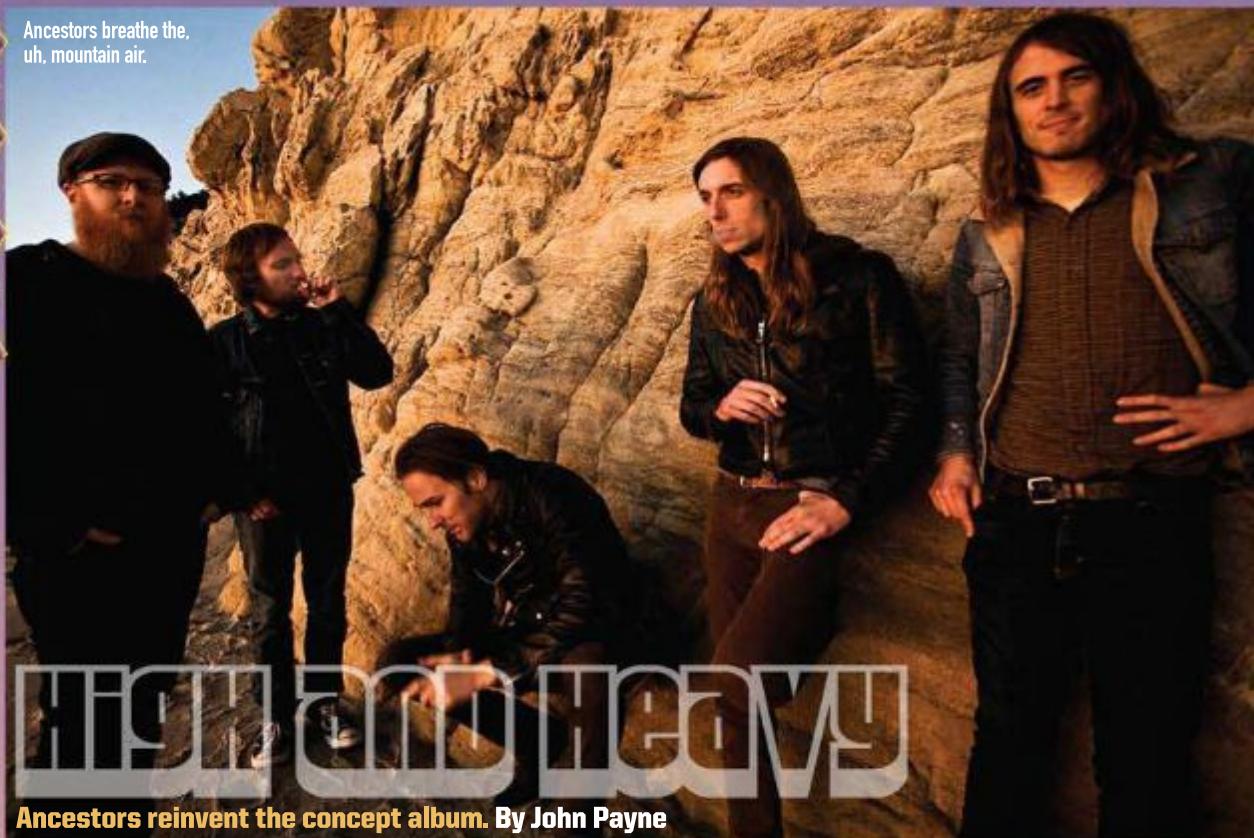


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Ancestors breathe the, uh, mountain air.



Ancestors reinvent the concept album. By John Payne

What Ancestors are, first and foremost, is *heavy*. Then again, they're actually a lot of things, in a way akin to the progressive likes of Pink Floyd and King Crimson back in the early '70s, a time when bands could throw just about anything into their magic teapot, then sit back and watch it blow up—often right in their faces. Foolhardy risk taking is, according to Ancestors, an admirable goal and a righteous one, an honorable and utterly rocking one.

The band—Justin Maranga (guitar, vocals), Nick Long (bass, vocals), Brandon Pierce (drums and gong ... yes, gong), Chico Foley (electronics, keys and vocals) and J. Christopher Watkins (organ, vocals)—has a recent album out on Tee Pee called *Of Sound Mind*. A hairy and ungodly hash of slab-thick stereo-distorted guitar rifferoonie, ambient electronic interludes, soaring (and kinda catchy, even) melodic gambits and a lot of other interesting stuff residing somewhere in between all of the above, *Of Sound Mind* is a way, way broody, real, *real* gloomy, extremely rainy-day-holed-up kinda atmospheric sludgehammer that takes you places and insists that you use your mind along the way.

I have to admit that I was lured in by all the journalist-baiting PR jive about the influences (musical and otherwise) surrounding the album's genesis, such as the abovementioned Floyd and Crimson, along with Neurosis, Miles Davis, Eric Dolphy, Albert Camus and Henry David Thoreau, for God's sake. Not only that, I was given to understand that this was a *concept* album.

But the band's chief theoretician and lyricist, Chico Foley, defends/defines their approach this way: "We knew we would definitely take it somewhere with lyrical premises and ideas, but we were interested in staying away from all of that 'conceptual record' thing, while kind of circling round one specific theme. This record is loosely associated with something which is [called] consciousness, psychology. That's something that's been done a million times before, but we have our own para-

'We all completely condone smoking marijuana. I've smoked it all my life, and it's part of my general makeup and what I offer for the music.'

digms, our own perspectives and instincts."

All of which is fine by me—I'm just devil's-advocating the whole post-punk prejudice that the very idea of rock bands attempting to beat grand opera at its own overblown game is silly and (that most pretentious of rock-crit terms) "pretentious."

"We were kind of afraid of the whole 'art' concept 'cause of how it was mocked originally, like with the prog bands in the '70s, where it became joke-worthy," Foley admits. "We wanted to take it seriously, but we don't really want to be *too* serious, you know?"

These days, if anyone wants to do a concept album, it's a good thing precisely because it was so *verboten* in punk rock's now-moldy past. Also, I like ambition, and I happen to be sick to death of irony and sarcasm—no kidding. But still I wonder: What exactly *is* the concept here? The London-born Foley draws on his experience as a philosophy and poli-sci major at an English university as he attempts to clarify.

"There are basically four main songs on the record, and each song has a specific lyrical idea that has something to do with human psychology," he says, "the first being about diaspora, and why are we moving somewhere—for something or for nothing? Or are we seemingly going nowhere? We were trying to stay away from mythology, but we did refer to the gods of aspiration in general, maybe career or academic or intellectual. 'The Trial' is very romantic, but we tried to make it really loose. 'The Ambrose Law' is about how the parallels of schizophrenia in the human mind may be projected as opposed to how society constructs it; it's about human society as a human function, how some of this comes about from our own pos-

sibly schizophrenic minds ... we're all bipolar to some degree."

Meanwhile, another track, "Mother Animal," seems to deal with the existential absurdity of life—as in, for example, why must we even consider all these complicated things that Ancestors are wrestling with in their songs?

So maybe the time feels right for some big-ass conceptual rock "works" that put you in the mood to brood—for these are, it would seem, long-attention-span times, if only as a brief respite from our collective (and all but certain) tragic ruin. Even so, the band's members are acutely aware that they've got to bring something new to that experience or risk getting hockpooey'd right off the stage.

"There is kind of a revival of these kinds of emotions and musical ideas from the early '70s," Foley admits. "But for us, we're concerned how a lot of that

has been rehashed by some bands and there isn't really any new form of direction. To aspire to [be like] some of these bands, who were unique and knew what they were doing, yet just trying to replicate a sound as opposed to being unique yourself, is kind of pointless. Music evolves—you might have all these influences, but throw 'em all together and get it really *mutated*."

At this point, bandmate J. Christopher Watkins chimes in: "What we like about a lot of the '70s bands is that they were doing something new and original—and rather than replicate what they did stylistically, we thought we'd replicate what they did as innovators. That's the hard part, obviously."

All of which is true enough—except that now, marketing yourself to a specific niche (doom, metal, psych, prog, whatever) is a survival tool that every musician must have; accepting that you'll be categorized is simply part of the game.

"It always pops up," Watkins says mournfully, "especially the way communication is now—everyone wants a reference point, and there's no way around it. It's probably best to not think about it."

"We would hate to be called a stoner band, for example," Foley adds, "but we all completely condone smoking marijuana. I've smoked it all my life, and it's part of my general makeup and what I offer for the music."

"I think it's completely necessary," Watkins says. "Not so much for writing, but in general, to change your perspective, when I get really entrenched and am being hyper-critical."

And even as we speak, Ancestors are banging away at their latest opus, whose title, rationale and theoretical content are still shrouded in mystery. ✨

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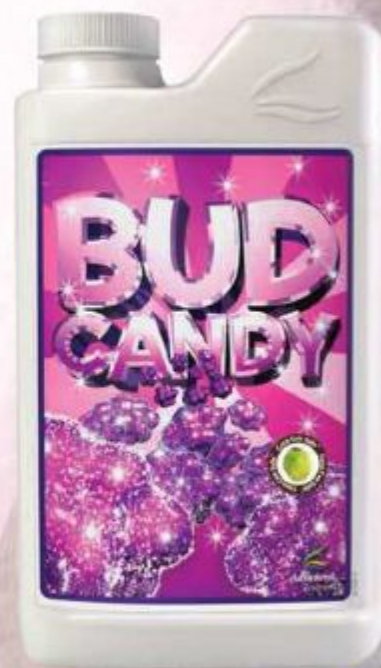
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CLASS TRIP

Fifty years later, Ralph Metzner remembers Leary, Harvard and LSD.

By Jonah Raskin

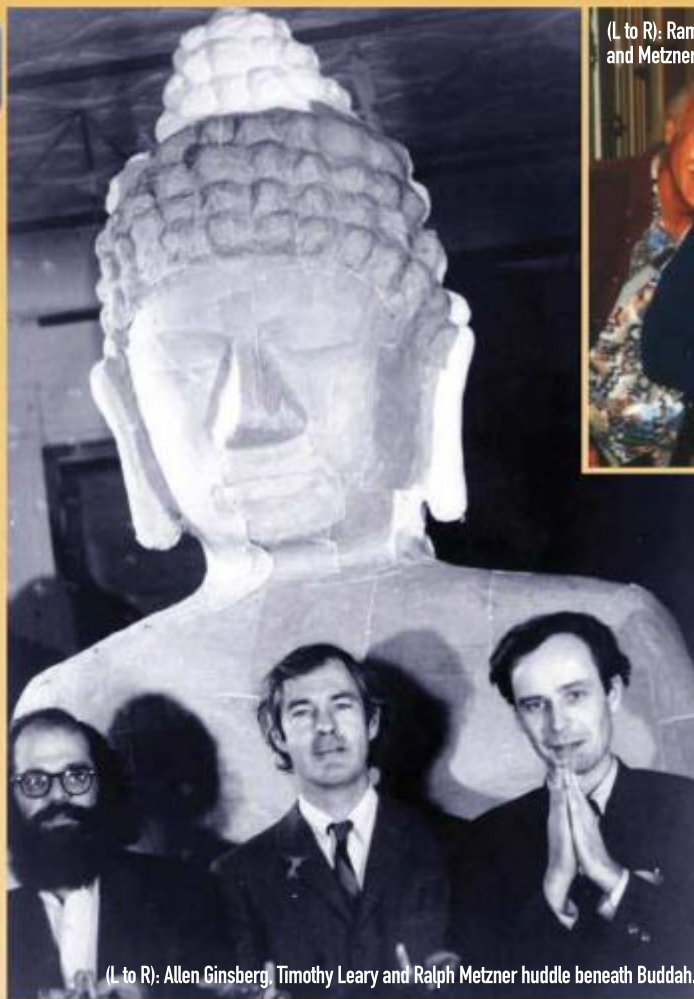
Whether you're stoned or straight right now, picture this, if you will: white-haired Ralph Metzner—Mr. Psychedelic himself—on a rainy winter night before an audience of mostly older men and women who have come to hear him describe his halcyon days with Dr. Timothy Leary, as recounted in his new book, *Birth of a Psychedelic Culture: Conversations About Leary, the Harvard Experiment, Millbrook, and the Sixties*, which Metzner and co-author Ram Dass wrote with the assistance of Gary Bravo, the chief psychiatrist for Sonoma County Mental Health.

Lilla Weinberger, who owns the bookstore where Metzner's speaking, has just introduced him as "an icon of the 1960s" and "a prophet in his own country." Wearing glasses, a sweater and a scarf, Metzner hardly looks like an icon of the '60s drug culture, but the description doesn't bother him. He's too modest to present himself in such grandiose terms, in part because he spent years at Harvard around self-proclaimed and self-aggrandizing icons like Leary and Ram Dass (who was born into the world as Richard Alpert). Indeed, for one of the avatars of the psychedelic revolution, Metzner is awfully straight.

Leary was his all-time favorite professor back when Metzner was a student at Harvard. It was a time when almost every professor in the psychology department, including the behaviorist B.F. Skinner, was tinkering madly with lab rats. To Metzner, who turned 24 in 1960, taking LSD seemed a lot more fun and, um, mind-expanding than watching rats run around in a maze. Now, 50 years after he first started exploring psychedelic culture, Metzner's not sorry that he dropped acid at Harvard or devoted all of his years since then to examining his own life. The unexamined life, he has long thought, isn't worth living.

At 74, Ralph Metzner is a hardy survivor of the culture wars, the drug culture, and America's seemingly endless War on Drugs—about which, not surprisingly, he doesn't have a good word to say. "You can't make war against *drugs*; all the drug wars have been wars against *people*," he insists. "Human beings are the casualties." The author of over half a dozen books and the editor of half a dozen more, Metzner—who is also the former dean of the California Institute for Integral Studies—has finally come into his own. Out from under the shadow of Leary, he's receiving the recognition he deserves as a pioneer in the field of psychedelic culture and a voyager into the realm of human consciousness. To his credit (and to the amazement of the audience at Readers' Books), Metzner remembers the '60s in vivid detail. It helps that he writes nearly everything down and talks into a tape recorder too. So he recalls the day that Leary first famously proclaimed: "Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out."

Later that week, over chai tea and a blueberry

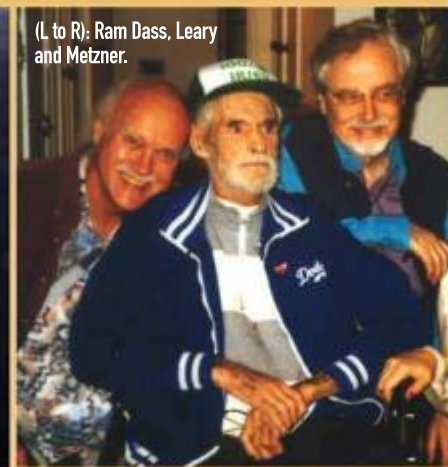


(L to R): Allen Ginsberg, Timothy Leary and Ralph Metzner huddle beneath Buddha.

When the Merry Pranksters gave LSD to thousands of hippies Metzner cringed. 'That was my worst nightmare come true. I didn't think that people should take LSD indiscriminately.'

scone in Santa Rosa, wearing the same dark sweater and scarf that he wore at Readers' Books, Metzner unpacks Leary's oft-repeated mantra. "What he really meant," he says, "is that we need to break out of the boxes we're in, get away from confining ideologies and get into a deeper awareness of reality." Metzner says that, to Leary's catchy slogan, he added a phrase of his own: "... and Come Back." In the very next breath, he says: "Leary didn't like my addition." But "dropping out" was never Metzner's idea of the be-all or end-all of a "be-in"—or, for that matter, of life itself. When Leary broke the law and went to jail, Metzner went the other way. When Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters gave LSD to thousands of hippies in the "Hashbury," Metzner cringed. "That was my worst nightmare come true," he says. "I didn't think that people should take LSD indiscriminately."

Granted, Metzner did drop out for a time; he also used LSD and went all the way to India. But he came back with a bang and put himself to work at a variety of jobs: at Mendocino State Hospital, at Stanford University's Counseling Center and at Kaiser Permanente in Hayward, CA. To help his patients, he used some of the tricks he'd learned at Harvard. He also learned, on his own, to appreciate balance and respect individual boundaries. "I once suggested to my father, whose drug of choice was alcohol, that he take mind-altering drugs," Metzner says. "He told me, 'I don't want to



(L to R): Ram Dass, Leary and Metzner.

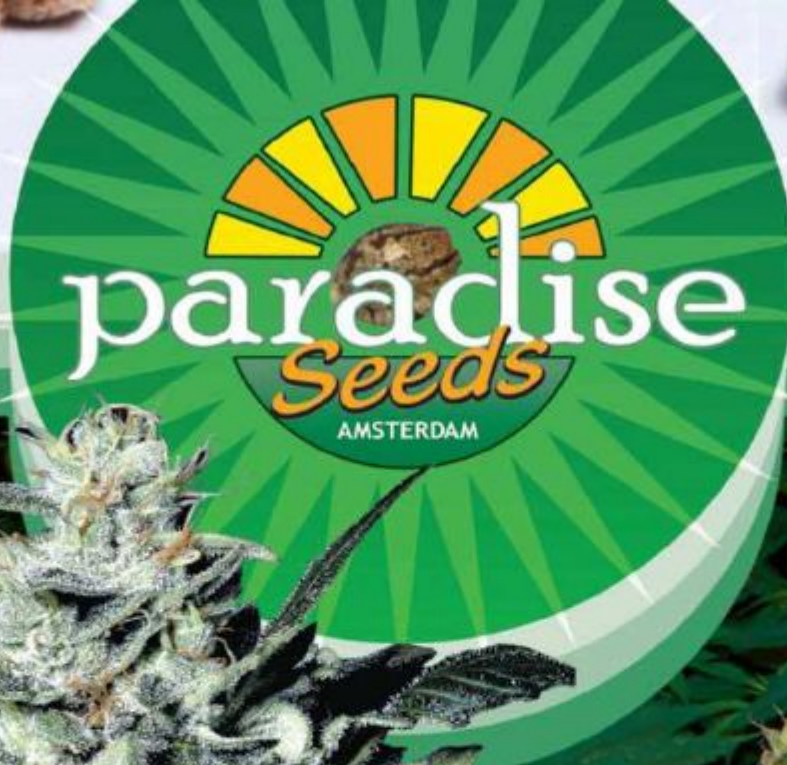
alter or expand my consciousness.' Fair enough—I have always respected that point of view and have never forced anyone to take drugs." Metzner's father, who was a book lover and a peace-loving man, was drafted into the German Army in 1944, near the very end of the Second World War, and saw its horrors up close.

"I was born in Berlin in 1937 and lived in Germany during World War II," Metzner recalls now. "My mother was English, my father German. I remember bombs dropping on the city. After the war, I went to England with my mother, attended boarding school in Scotland, and went to Oxford to study psychology." Metzner's wartime experiences as a child helped him to understand post-traumatic

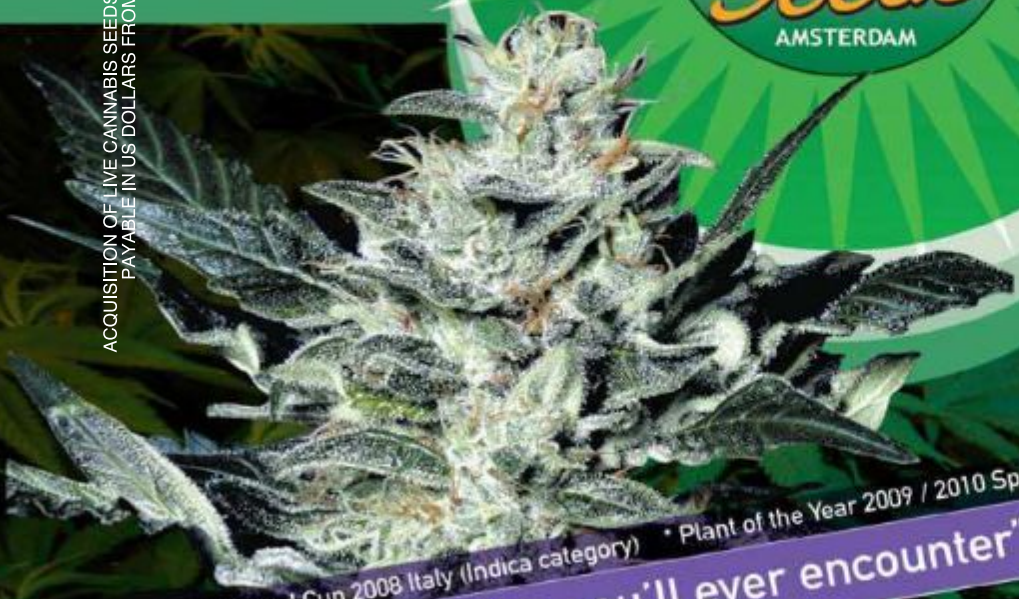
stress disorder (PTSD) and enabled him to heal emotionally and physically wounded soldiers when they returned home from combat in Vietnam. This understanding also aided him when he wrote *The Roots of War and Domination* (2008), which was published by his own nonprofit, the Green Earth Foundation. It's probably his most socially conscious book, though most of his work aims to heal societal ills.

Metzner has ideas for a half-dozen more books, and since the Green Earth Foundation will publish them uncensored, he says that he feels truly uninhibited for the first time in his life. "It's the greatest liberation of my life," he explains. "Self-publishing has freed me to say what I want to say." Metzner is also getting ready for two big workshops that he'll conduct, one in Lucerne, Switzerland, that he calls "Janus and the Gateway of the Heart," and the other in Petaluma, CA, not far from the house in Sonoma where he lives with his wife and daughter. To help participants who attend his workshops and conferences, he uses shamanistic rituals, meditation, yoga and—surprise!—no drugs. He calls his approach "alchemical divination," and when asked why he chose such an esoteric phrase, he replies: "I don't like to use words that people know the meanings of. I want them to seem strange, and I want participants to be curious. But what I do isn't esoteric—it's really quite ordinary." ✨

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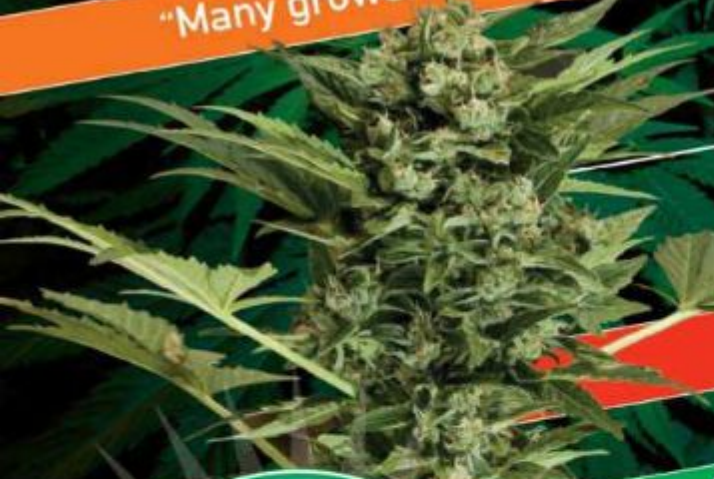
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THE FIX IS IN

An independent film looks at the drug life from user to dealer to rehab.



Yes, all the herb in the film is real.

The French playwright and poet Jean Cocteau once said, "Film will only become an art when its materials are as inexpensive as pencil and paper." Filmmaker Tao Ruspoli not only took this to heart, but painted it on the side of a Technicolor school bus that served for many years as the workshop for the documentaries he made as the founder of LAFCO (the Los Angeles Film Cooperative). It still informs his narrative feature-film debut, *Fix*, which co-stars his wife, Olivia Wilde (*House*, *Tron Legacy*), and Shawn Andrews (*Dazed and Confused*). Loosely based on incidents sur-

rounding Tao's younger brother Bartolomeo, *Fix* follows two documentary filmmakers named Milo and Bella as they race around Los Angeles trying to raise \$5,000 to enroll Milo's brother Leo in a drug-rehab program before the day ends and he's sent back to jail. From there, Ruspoli creates his story out of whatever he sees.

"I gravitated towards documentary because I was very excited about a very personal style of filmmaking that's possible now with digital technology," he explains. "In the same way a painter paints or a writer writes, a filmmaker can now

make a film."

These possibilities allowed Ruspoli to express unorthodox yet deeply refreshing perspectives on addiction. For starters, Bella and Milo have no problem with weed—in fact, they attempt to sell a pound to raise the money. (Tao has also shot an ad spot for pot lawyer Allison Margolin, "LA's dopest attorney"—and yes, in case you were wondering, the pot in the film *is* real.) While the movie ultimately presents no easy "fix" for addiction, Ruspoli himself derives his view on drugs from

his father, Prince Dado Ruspoli, who successfully managed a lifelong addiction to opium and inveighed against the refinement and removal of psychoactive compounds from their host plants. "My father lived to be 80 years old," Ruspoli notes. "And [for him], opium was part of a culture, the same way drinking wine is part of a culture, the same way marijuana can be part of a culture. Because these are natural things that come from the earth—they have a tradition. And also," he adds, "nature doesn't make these substances ridiculously strong." —Justin Hampton

BUDS 'N' BREW

Red Fang does it high and heavy.

On rock's evolutionary scale, Red Fang's marker lies somewhere in the smoldering chasm between Black Sabbath and Black Flag. Assembling four years ago in Portland, OR, guitarist/vocalist Bryan Giles, bassist/vocalist Aaron Beam, guitarist David Sullivan and drummer John Sherman were already well acquainted with one another, having played together in various outfits within the city's crowded music scene. Yet it was only after they clicked as Red Fang that the quartet finally found their sound—a gritty mix of distorted, furiously heavy rock influenced by groups like My Bloody Valentine, the Melvins and King Crimson, one that has often been difficult to categorize.

"For a while, it was 'Northwest street metal,'" says Sherman, describing one of the many pigeonholes that Red Fang was relegated to. "We're not like Mastodon—we're not very technical, and we don't really think we're a metal band." How about 'stoner rock'? "Maybe," Sherman quips with a smile: "Does 'stoner rock' mean it's rock'n'roll that you enjoy while you're stoned?"

Red Fang released their eponymous full-length debut in 2009 on the boutique label Sargent House, but it didn't really gain traction until the video for their sonic single "Prehistoric Dog" began making

Not exactly a boy band.



the viral rounds, earning them a reputation as a buds 'n' brew band. The clip—a heshier take on Monty Python meets *The Evil Dead*, in which the band dons armor made up of beer cans—garnered almost 250,000 views on YouTube. Soon after, tours with Big Business and Valient Thorr solidified their place among rawk's dirty elite.

They're now mixing their eagerly anticipated sophomore release with Vance Powell (Raconteurs, *Dead Weather*), and Giles promises that

"the new album will surprise people in some ways." Sherman adds: "It's not a departure in styles, but there are songs that sound totally different from other songs, and it goes through several different moods."

"Oddly enough, the songs that have the most to do with weed are the oldest one and the newest one," says Beam. "It's sort of like we left weed, but then realized we missed it and came back to it again." —Zena Tsarfin

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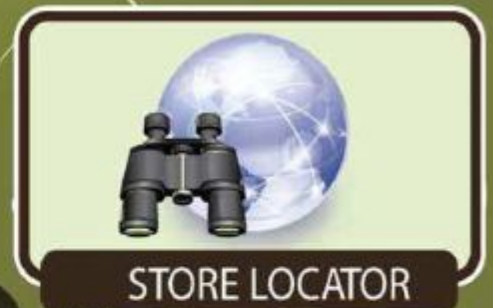
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SMOKE-OUT AT THE CANNABIS CORRAL

How Weed Won the West
Directed by Kevin Booth
(Sacred Cow Productions)



From the makers of *American Drug War* comes a highly anticipated feature-length documentary about the med-pot movement in California. Director Kevin Booth investigates the sprawling medical-marijuana industry in depth, tracing the supply line from farm to dispensary to patient while tackling the contentious politics surrounding the business from a decidedly pro-pot perspective.

Alex Jones, the popular conspiracy theorist and radio talk-show host, appears throughout *How Weed Won the West* to disentangle the twisted web of government control and monopoly capitalism that fiercely contests any loosening of the nation's punishing anti-pot laws. Jones, who admits to not smoking himself, nevertheless opines that "marijuana prohibition is being used to turn America into a nightmare police state" through unconstitutional federal policies that funnel citizens into privately owned for-profit prisons.

Booth also talks extensively with Jeff Jones, proprietor of the Organica Collective, a Marina del Rey-based medical-marijuana provider that has faced raids and arrests by the DEA. The Organica staff takes the filmmaker through a re-enactment of the trauma of the latest raid, including the shooting of their pit bull. (Fortunately, the dog has since recovered.)

How Weed Won the West features prominent activists addressing various aspects of the state's current and evolving medical-marijuana policy—including Ethan Nadelman, head of the Drug Policy Alliance; Don Duncan



Director Kevin Booth (middle) flanked by two growers.

of Americans for Safe Access; Rudy Reyes, burn survivor and activist; and Brett Bogue, cancer survivor and founder of Apothecary Seeds—as well as doctors, lawyers and law-enforcement officers. Shelley Martinez, a former WWE wrestler and actress, relates how injuries suffered in the ring left her debilitated and addicted to muscle relaxants, which almost killed her. She has since become an enthusiastic supporter of medical cannabis, especially a strain called Pineapple Kush.

With a running time of almost one hour and 45 minutes, *How Weed Won the West* can feel unfocused at times, and it includes very little history of the struggle to legitimize medical marijuana before the passage of Prop. 215. This lack of context could leave uninformed viewers a bit confused. So think of the film not as a comprehensive history, but rather as a preserved cross-section of the hectic and disorienting reality of the emerging medical-marijuana industry in the West, and then hang on for a wild ride.—Murphy Green

LIARS

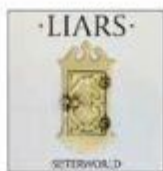
Sisterworld
(Mute)



Los Angeles is a confusing, alienating, *big* stack of shit. But it's also a good place to dream in, and as good a place as any for Liars to get real lost.

The confounding Liars, who've released several albums of resolutely avant-garde rock-aligned music, now proffer *Sisterworld*, a sort of concept album detailing the trio's experiences in LA, and all those near-beautiful dreamers who populate its nightclubs and bowling alleys. Songs like "Scarecrows on a Killer Slant," "The Overachievers," "Goodnight Everything" and "I Can Still See an Outside World" are abstruse collages of guitar, vocals, electronics and drum-thump that provide the adventurous listener with obscurely hopeful loads of visual and aural impact. Bewildering by conscious (and maybe unconscious) design, the music's dizzying yet oddly exhilarating dimness, like most of the band's previous work, is kustom-krafted to impart a sense that *something's happening*, as befits the reality of life, death and resurrection in the City of (Broken) Angels.

Liars' echoed-out barrages can garage-stomp like real champs, though, and *Sisterworld* is like a Mayan maze of sonic and lyrical ambiguity that pummels and cajoles, then flits between shadows, a haze of maddening thought/action/afterthought that plows ahead while darting jittery glances down dank alleys after a tiny beam of light you only thought you saw There's a Liars-type symmetry to all this, and the album's major achievement is how it does seem to make at least a version of sense after a few listens. Like LA itself, Liars are all about how to create a world that travels underneath—you know, a place in which to really exist. *Sisterworld* is an attempt to get there.—John Payne



KOTTONMOUTH KINGS

Long Live the Kings
(Suburban Noize)



Everyone who's reading this most likely has bad habits of some sort—otherwise, LA stoner-rap vets the Kottonmouth Kings would've packed up their canny conglomeration of weed-friendly musical styles and gone into rehab long ago. But just when people may have started to think that these guys had smoked their last, *Long Live the Kings* emerges from the Suburban Noize camp with a renewed sense of boundless enthusiasm. A primary cause for the Kings' second wind is the presence of their newest member, the Oregon-based Dirtball—and clearly, his quick wit and even quicker tongue help inject new energy into the band's now-familiar formula of party anthems and drug-positive rhyming.

That said, those who never really liked the Kottonmouth Kings probably won't start now, as very little else has changed with them. Just as soon as they've crowned Dirtball on the bombastic opening track, they're jetting him out to Vegas on a surf-rock riff ("Lucky Day"), flipping off cops with the Insane Clown Posse ("Fuck tha Police") and, of course, getting wasted throughout. They do pause to reflect effectively on the fear that blocks pot legalization ("Reefer Madness"), as well as on the passing of Bianca Halstead, Daddy X's former drummer in his old group, the Humble Gods (the somber, acoustic "Kill the Pain"). But pondering the Big Questions has never been KMK's forte. After 15 years, it's still all about the party for them, and if they aren't the last men standing, *Long Live the Kings* shows that it won't be for lack of trying.—Justin Hampton



STUPID PARTY

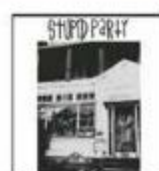
Stupid Party
(Freedom School)



Bubbling up from the toxic, PCB-laced slime pits of Brooklyn, NY, comes this strange combo who call themselves Stupid Party. The sort of mental deficiencies referred to in their moniker I believe are of the chosen variety—stupid through drugs or maybe poor diet—as opposed to being the result of some birth defect.

What you get here is a deluge of acid-rain noise rooted in the sort of old-time hardcore that used to veer unapologetically towards the weird—stuff like Black Flag and Hüsker Dü and even the first Meat Puppets album, the one that only a proud handful profess to like. With it also comes a bunch of '70s metal riffage that slows things down here and there so you can catch your breath. These guys are at their best when they get the measurements of this formula right and then fag out long enough to throw the slightest hint of a melody on top, as in the songs "Sludger," "Binz" and "Grind."

Picking apart the Stupid Party sound is kind of like asking what goes into a hot dog. Drummer Johnny Norton handles the changes well, and bass player Chuck Van Violence runs more than he walks over the fret board. Singer/guitarist Cory Feierman doesn't seem to care whether you understand a word he's saying (I think at one point he sings "nothing is real"), but it's all in good fun. As the liner notes clearly stipulate, "Fuck 'em if they can't take a toke."—Chris Simunek



"BLOWS THE LID OFF A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY ON THE VERGE."

- DANNY DANKO, HIGH TIMES MAGAZINE

THE NEW FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY FROM KEVIN BOOTH FEATURING ALEX JONES

While the U.S. economy burns to the ground, one industry refuses to go up in smoke!

With California and the rest of the country going bankrupt, one business is booming. How Weed Won the West is the story of the growing Medical Marijuana industry, focusing on Los Angeles with over 1000 legal dispensaries doling out the buds. Some will go to jail while others get rich as the country witness's the final days of Marijuana prohibition.

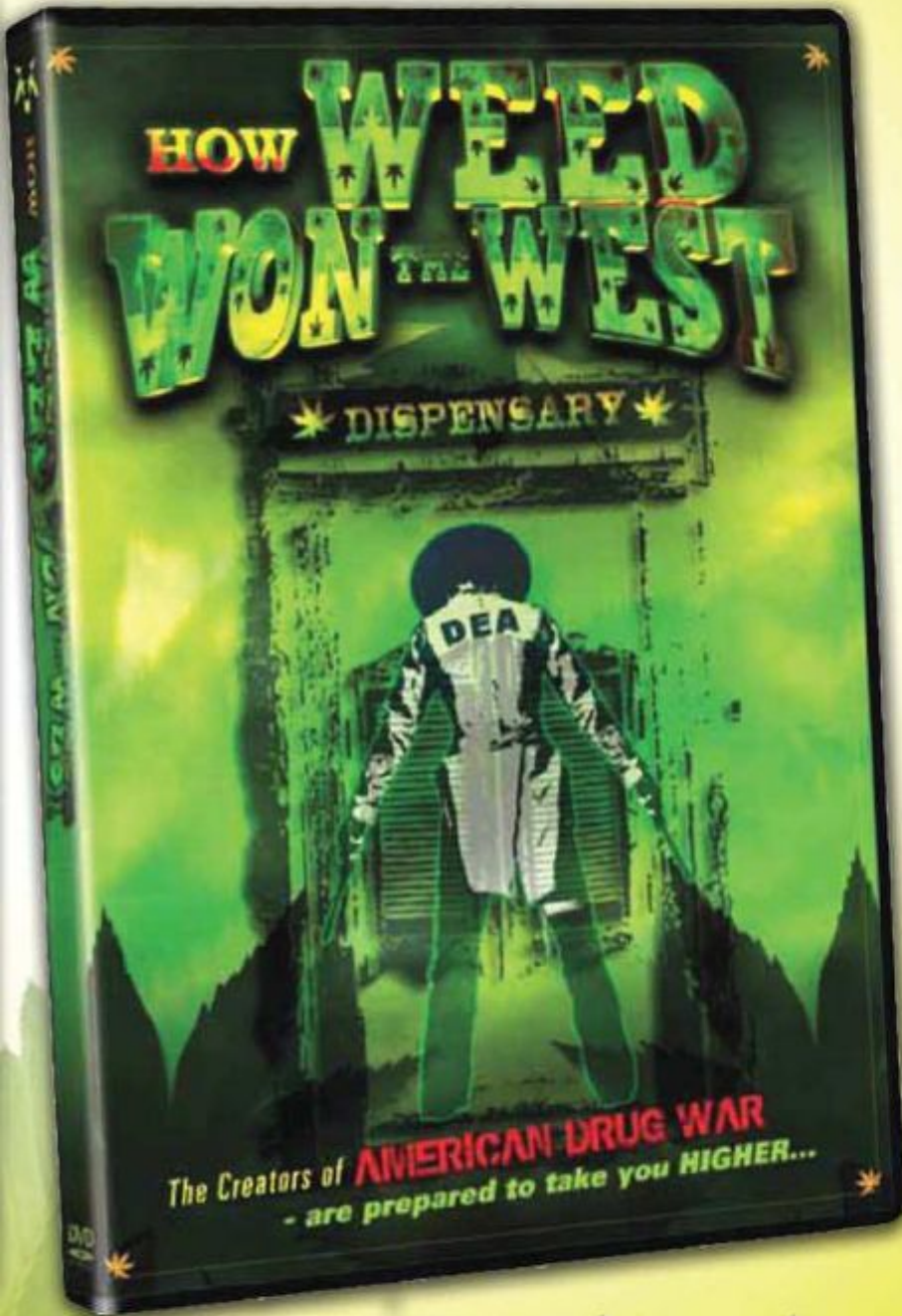
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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH THE DIVINE CRIME



Featuring the former backing band for H.R. from Bad Brains and funk-ed-out vocalist Ameerah, the Divine Crime is an all-star crew with a high-energy show, real song-writing power and a contagious vibe.

Offering true musicianship as well as serious eye candy, this new group is known for fusing reggae, roots, dub, dancehall, soul and jam music into a seamless combination. Heavy and danceable grooves with layers of deep bass, synth textures, loud, rippin' guitar and heart-filled melodies define their sound. The Divine Crime's mission is to empower every kind of music lover, throw fear and complacency out the door, and rock it out no matter who's staring.

Even before the release of their first album, the band had created a buzz on the

SoCal music scene, developing a loyal fan base in their stomping grounds of LA, Ventura and Long Beach. And in less than two short years, they've already had the opportunity to play with Barrington Levy, Yellowman, Pato Banton, Steel Pulse, Bushman, Rebelution, PYRX and Tribal Seeds, just to name just a few.

You can purchase their newly released 11-song album *Obliquity*, featuring dub mixes by legendary producer the Scientist, from all the major digital outlets (iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby, etc.) as well as select retail stores throughout California. The Divine Crime is currently touring the West Coast and beyond in support of their new album. For more information, including tour dates and audio samples, check out hightimes.com/thedivinecrime.

MISS JUNE

NAME: Kati **AGE:** 20
PROFILE: Katijane420
OCCUPATION: Student
CITY: Modesto, CA



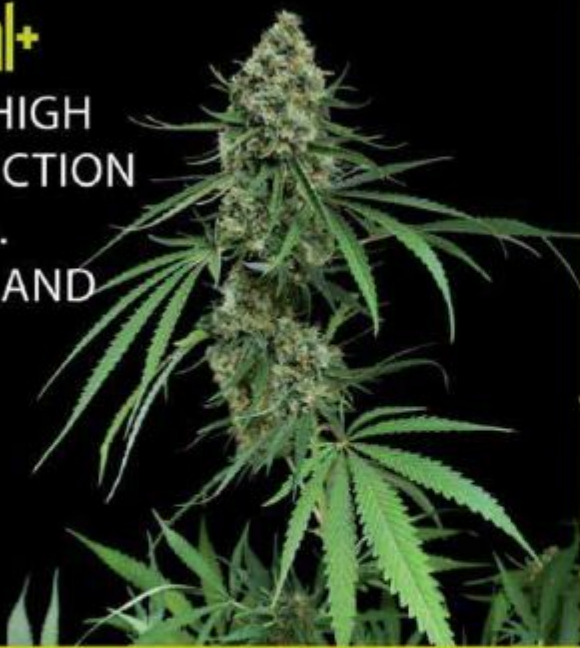
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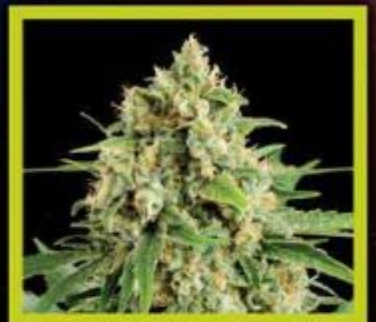
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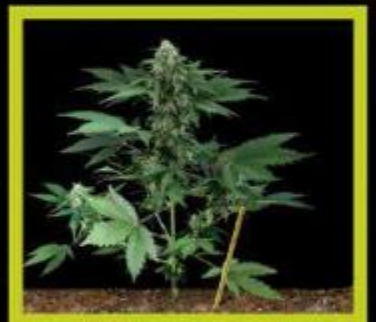
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AUSTIN HEAP AND THE TWITTER REVOLUTION

Twitter can be used to express the trivial, but it can also be used to communicate the meaningful.

By Paul Krassner

This June marks the first anniversary of the uprisings against the rigged presidential election in Iran. At the time, a 25-year-old San Francisco cyber-activist named Austin Heap saw a tweet calling attention to CNN's failure to report those protests. He created a website that anyone on Twitter could access—and when Iran's Guardian Council started monitoring tweets, other members of this instant community were able to report that fact to him. "The revolution may not be televised," Heap said, "but it will be tweeted." Recently, I had a few questions for him.



Austin Heap

'It's disturbing, the amount of force the Feds found necessary to use in response to a few tweets.'

Mel Brooks once said that 95 percent of everything is crap. What would you say is the ratio between the trivial and the meaningful on Twitter?

I think it's difficult to balance the trivial and the meaningful on Twitter. In some ways, it's a vicious circle, a self-contained hype machine that relies on knee-jerk reactions and, to a certain extent, sensationalism. This is because there's a pervasive belief in the mainstream media that Twitter is changing things. That notion alone has become the story, and they seek out very isolated examples to bolster this proposition.

At the same time, Twitter can provide social causes an insane amount of momentum in a shockingly small period of time—especially those that haven't been "approved" by the establishment. What's more, it can open that cloistered establishment up: Corporations stand to gain greatly by interacting with their customers in this medium, giving them a direct channel of feedback and making sure they're happy. There's scale to Twitter, so Twitter will always have some win.

What was your role in the Iran/Twitter connection?

I am one of many people who saw the struggle that many in Iran were going through after the June 12th elections and thought I could do something, however small, to help ensure that those in Iran were able to bypass the IRI's [Islamic Repub-

lic of Iran] filtering of the Internet. A basic human right, for me, includes having a strong, secure and stable means of communication, regardless of the communication's contents. Twitter provided a phenomenal means of communicating and organizing with others who were interested in Iran, and for citizen journalists and activists inside Iran to move information out. Then they blocked Twitter—that's when I got really involved.

An anarchist in New York was arrested for listening to a police scanner and relaying information on Twitter to help protesters avoid heavily armed cops—ironically, the same activity the State Department praised when it happened in Iran. What's your take on that case?

It's disturbing, the amount of force the Feds found necessary to use in response to a few tweets. This person was reposting publicly available information. If posting recounts from the police scanner is illegal, then bust him for that. But using an obscure law that's historically been used to shut up dissidents is a step too far—not to mention the government followed up by saying, "Look! Look at his evil reading materials!"

People shouldn't destroy private or even public property while protesting. Bottom line: He doesn't deserve to be treated like this. He didn't *do* anything—at least when people inside Iran were getting unique information out to the world using Twitter, they were breaking their inane local law—not to mention anything *close* to something that would violate the anti-riot laws. Hopefully, this will serve as a launch pad to get rid of these meaningless, cherry-picked laws.

Paul Krassner has been busy exploring pot-related Twitter sites for growing information, legalization news and the location of merchants selling it. His award-winning collection, *Pot Stories for the Soul*, is now available at paulkrassner.com.

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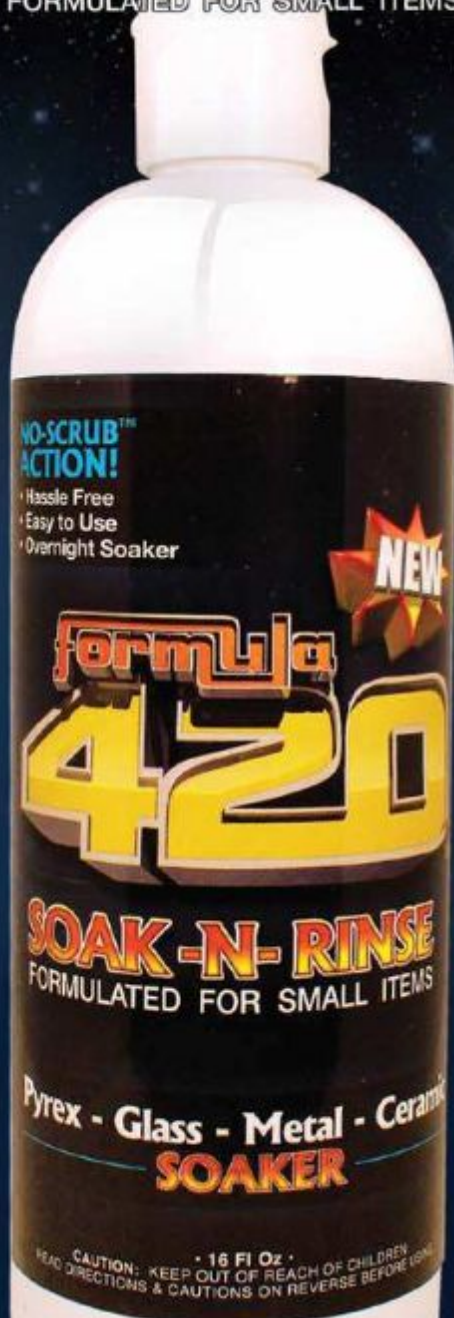
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BY BOBBY BLACK

FEELS LIKE THE FIRST TIME

Bobby recalls his first dance with Mary Jane.

"Tell me about the first time you smoked pot."

It's a question I've posed to just about every person I've interviewed for *HIGH TIMES* over the years. So this month, I thought I'd turn the tables and share with you the tale of *my* first experience rockin' the ganj.

The year was 1984, and I was attending Seth Low junior high. I was a shy, quiet kid without many friends, searching for an identity and my place in the world. I soon found that identity in my parents' vinyl collection: From the first moment I laid eyes on the long-haired, bellbottom-clad figures pictured inside the albums of Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, I knew I wanted to be just like them. But as I began to seek out kindred spirits my own age, I quickly realized that there were only three other rockers in my entire school—the three "delinquents" that all of my teachers warned us to stay away from. There was William, a scrawny, pale Irish kid with greasy, shoulder-length reddish hair who wore plain white undershirts and frayed flannels. There was his best friend Felix, a husky Hispanic dude with long, Bril-o-y hair who wore mostly combat boots and camouflage. And then there was Spade.

Eddie "Spade" Spadinsky was the epitome of a hoodlum. His trademark was a black motorcycle jacket that had his namesake symbol spray-painted in red on the back, with the words "Death to Posers" scrawled underneath. He wore it every day—even in the summer. Legend had it that he'd been left back twice, which made sense considering that he was the only guy in school with a mustache, and spent more time in the dean's office than the dean did. But no matter how many times Spade got in trouble, he'd come in the next day with that same smirk and attitude. He wasn't afraid of the teachers, the security guards, his parents or anyone else as far as I could tell. He did exactly what he wanted, and nobody told him different.

I'd never seen guys like these before. To me, they may as well have *been* Black Sabbath. I watched them from afar each day at lunch as they gathered by the dumpsters in the courtyard—far away from everyone else, long hair blowing in the wind, eyes always scanning for security guards, smoking cigarettes and laughing at all the kids running around playing their silly games. Now, I had no desire to get in trouble, but for reasons I couldn't comprehend at the time, I wanted nothing more than to be one of them. So one Saturday afternoon, I rode my bike halfway across Brooklyn—to the only headshop I knew of—and blew my allowance on a denim jacket with a Zeppelin back patch and a bunch of pins and patches. As I hoped, when I got to school the next week decked out in my new rock



gear, they took notice. My heart inched up into my throat as they marched toward me and sized me up.

"Well, well, looks like we got ourselves a little Led-head here!" Spade said. "So what's your favorite Zep song, junior?"

I was terrified, but I tried to play it cool.

"Dazed and Confused," I answered.

All three of them broke out laughing.

"Dazed and Confused," huh?" Spade repeated mockingly. "We'll see about that. Come with us." They led me out of the schoolyard and down the block, then pulled me down into an alley under an apartment building and whipped out a thin, funny-shaped cigarette.

"You wanna get dazed?" Spade asked, offering me the joint. "Suck on this."

It was like a scene from an after-school special. I had no idea what marijuana was or what to expect, but I wasn't about to chicken out. I took a few small tokes, then coughed for about two minutes straight as the guys looked on and laughed. Once my eyes were nice and glassy, Felix pulled off his headphones and put them over my ears.

"Now ... check *this* out," he said, pressing play on his Walkman.

"This" turned out to be Metallica's "Fight Fire With Fire." Until that moment, the heaviest music I'd ever heard was Black Sabbath. But after getting high for the first time and listening to *Ride the Lightning*, there was no turning back. After that, Spade and the boys took me under their wing, and before long my hair was halfway down my back and I was spending my weekend nights in the park with them—blasting metal from our boom boxes and passing joints.

Of course, I didn't start smoking heavily until much later in high school, and unlike Eddie, I kept up my A average and stayed out of detention. But my exposure to weed helped open my mind and awaken the independent, rebellious spirit I still carry with me to this day. Sure, you might be tempted to say that I was a victim of peer pressure, but in retrospect, my first smoke served as a rite of passage for me—a gateway not to harder drugs, but to harder music and broader horizons. To paraphrase Hunter Thompson, I wouldn't recommend it for everyone, but it's always worked for me. ✨

Check out more *Almost Infamous* online at hightimes.com/bobbyblack.



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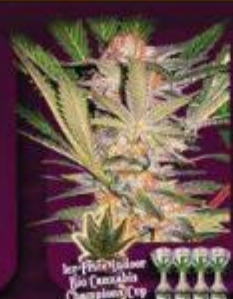


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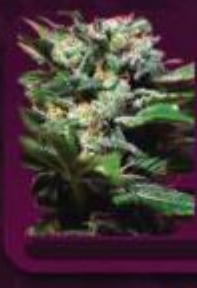


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COLO

Growing Big in the Rockies

Colorado continues its expansion of the cannabis economy as the number of new medical gardens escalates.

Story & photos by Dan Skye

30,000 watts of light, suspended on cables, can be raised or lowered.

Twenty-year-old Brittany has just begun a new career in the garden.

RADICAL

Rocky Mountain State politicians and law enforcement continue to dicker with Amendment 20, the voter-approved initiative that made safe access to medical marijuana part of the state's constitution in 2000. Colorado's leadership within the cannabis community has been savvy and outspoken, fiercely resistant to any alteration of historic law. Unfortunately, those in power like to use it.

As of this writing, Colorado legislators have made considerable headway in the quest to impose restrictions on the flourishing industry. In late March, HB10-1284 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee, a bill that actually mandates "Medical Marijuana Enforcement Investigators," who can perform warrantless searches of dispensaries. It also creates a state medical marijuana licensing board run by the Department of Revenue, not the Department of Health. Additionally, it imposes background checks on dispensary owners and a bit more scrutiny of patients. An amendment, that would have allowed veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder to be able to use medical marijuana, was rejected by state lawmakers. They indicated that they shouldn't be making medical decisions for people. Obviously, it never occurred to them that adding restrictions to Amendment 20 is exactly that.

Many activists support the bill stating that the burgeoning industry needs regulation. The legal wrangling continues and the bill must undergo several more votes in other committees before it reaches the governor's desk.

Meanwhile, the proliferation of state-grown cannabis marches on. The expression "you can't put the cat back in the bag" has never had more meaning. The cannabis industry is growing at a lightning-fast pace and will continue to grow despite political maneuvering. Moreover, there is no shortage of new recruits eager to jump into canna-businesses.



Plants are arranged on risers in a serpentine pattern.





The Marisol Therapeutics greenhouse provides top medicine for Coloradoans.



Clean greenhouse Diesel from Marisol.

Take 20-year-old Brittany. She grew up in a relatively poor family in Nevada. She received secretarial training through Job Corps and moved to Colorado just two years ago to start her new job in Denver. She says, "All I really knew about marijuana was that I liked smoking it. I have asthma, and marijuana helps open up my lungs. But once I moved here, I gradually met people and started working with Colorado NORML. I began to learn what this plant can do."

When she met a group of gardeners who had taken ownership of a small warehouse in the suburbs, she decided that she had found her niche. Brittany quit her secretary gig and submitted herself to the tutelage of this consortium of gardeners. She now serves as an on-site cultivation apprentice making \$15 per hour. Her duties include interfacing with patients and making deliveries to those who are unable to travel. In the garden, her studies have been intensive. She is heavily engaged in producing clones and has recently begun creating her own strains.

"This has been my university. I'm learning all about soil and nutrients," says Brittany. "Because harvest here is continuous, I'm constantly trimming and preparing medicine. It's a hands-on education."

A spokesman for the co-op describes the group's massive indoor garden as the "systematic, commercial cultivation of

medical marijuana."

"We follow Colorado law to the letter," he says. "We are regulated and controlled. We're trying to be a model of efficiency and cleanliness so patients can acquire the best medicine possible. Seriously, would you want to buy your cannabis if it was grown in a basement, or would you rather be assured that absolutely everything has been done to produce the finest medicine possible?"

Because this garden provides medicine for 65 patients and is in the process of opening its own dispensary, the growers have opted to stay in the shadows. Even though they're theoretically covered by Colorado law, the DEA has been making its presence known by busting several individuals and grow ops in the state that were a bit too visible. In this uncertain atmosphere, the wisest course for major cultivation operations is to stay under wraps, at least for the time being.

However, under these particular wraps, a brilliantly conceived garden grows robustly. The plants are arranged on two-foot risers in a serpentine pattern, with the plants that are nearest to harvest at the end of the line. The formation allows the gardeners easy access to plants from any direction. Above, the garden is showered with 30,000 watts of light via Hortilux high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs that nudge the plants into flowering. The lights are attached to steel cables and can be lowered and raised on a

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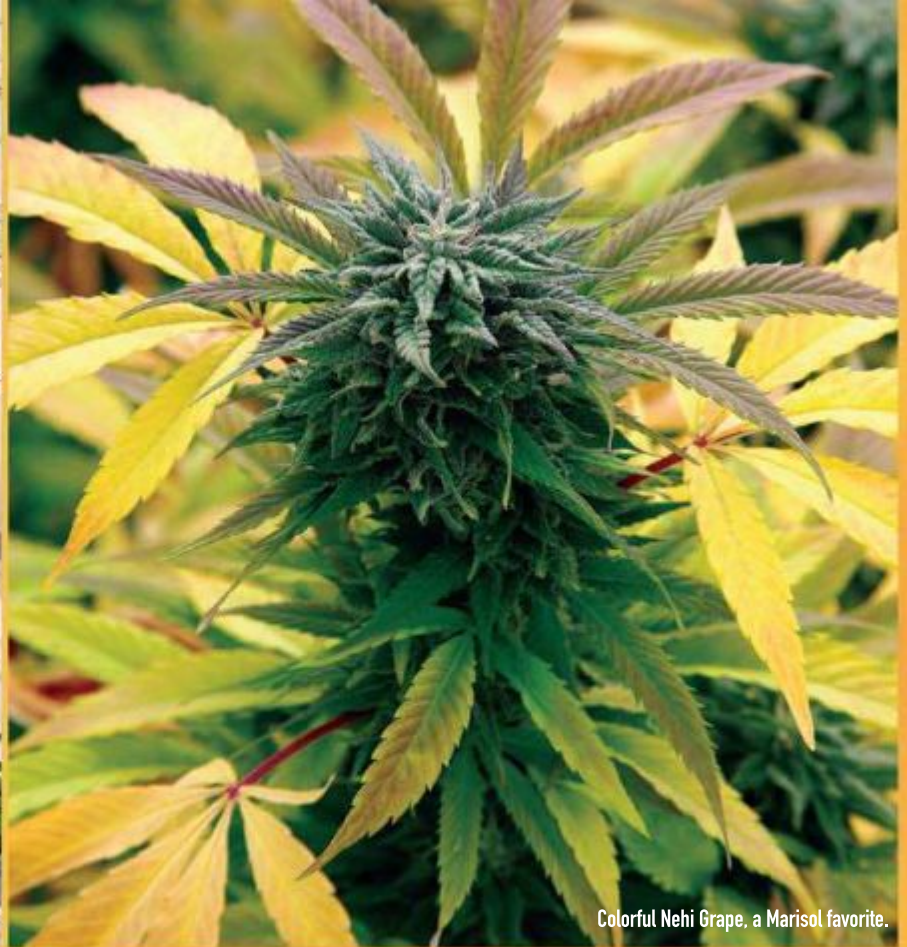


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Michael Stetler waters hundreds of plants by hand.



Colorful Nehi Grape, a Marisol favorite.

pulley system in order to accommodate fluctuations in growth. An ingenious system for producing CO₂ has been devised to promote plant growth: A simple hot-water system was installed on the outside wall of the garden, and the gas that is used to heat the water is then exhausted into the garden itself. Every innovation in the growroom was built by licensed electricians and plumbers and designed to be compliant with all building codes.

The plants themselves are nurtured in soilless media, a blend of Happy Frog and Ocean Forest from FoxFarm and Sunshine #4 from Sun Gro. Strolling down the twisty avenue of 60 plants, one can see 15 different strains in various stages of maturation, Cali Mist, Bigfoot, LA Woman, Sweet Tooth and Lemon Sweet Skunk among them. This group of caregivers is proud of the fact that it gives away more medicine than it sells. Furthermore, the highest price for medicine tops out at \$35 per ounce. It's no wonder this outfit believes in the morality of its mission.

"The economy was responsible in part for this explosion of marijuana," says our spokesman. "But now there's another dimension to our work: We're fighting the Drug War, too. We're cutting into the profits of cartels. We're producing medicine that is not polluted by the greed of unscrupulous growers."

These indoor growers choose to stay hidden, but Marisol Therapeutics strives to be upfront with city officials and has welcomed county commissioners and cops who wish to inspect both the Marisol dispensary and its garden. Located in Pueblo about two hours south of Denver, the Marisol storefront is a wellness center and dispensary serving about 150 patients. Michael Stetler is its director, and he oversees the dispensary as well as a gorgeous greenhouse operation a few miles away, set amid acres of ranchland.

"We're trying to do this right," he explains. "I believe we can work together. I opened my doors to them and they've learned quite a bit from me,

'I TRY TO USE AS MUCH OF MOTHER NATURE AS I CAN. THERE'S NO REPLICATION FOR HER.'
—MICHAEL STETLER

just as I've learned a great deal from them. I want to continue to do this on an equal footing with them. We can work through the gray areas."

One of the biggest gray areas is the fact that narcotics officers are still bound by federal law, which defines cannabis as a Schedule I controlled substance. So when cops enter a greenhouse measuring 60 by 140 feet—the size of a gymnasium—suppressing the urge to bust someone must be difficult.

"It's an education for them," says Michael. "But they see I'm providing services for patients. My plants aren't seized, and no one is arrested. I hope we're changing minds."

Stetler is a deeply spiritual man of Mexican and Native American ancestry. Now in his mid-fifties, he uses cannabis to ease the symptoms of thoracic-outlet syndrome and reflex-sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, both of which impact the nerves and blood vessels. He sustained his injuries in a car wreck and was prescribed OxyContin and Demerol. What he remembers about that time is hazy—foggy memories of being incapacitated around family members, unable to immerse himself in the fabric of a life that he once cherished. In 2002, he recognized that his only way back to normalcy was to kick the pills out of his life. With cannabis as his alternative, he's remained drug-free for the past eight years.

"I then realized what I could do," Stetler says. "I'd been growing marijuana for 38 years, and suddenly I saw an opportunity to make life better for people. So I made it a goal for myself: I wanted to have a dispensary and a garden that could provide for the patients."

The Marisol greenhouse is immaculate. Divided down its center, one half houses 300 plants in vegetation; the other side accommodates hundreds more flowering plants. Michael says he's decidedly "old-school ... or at least that's what I've been told," he laughs. "I guess it's because I try to use as much of Mother Nature as I can—there's no replication for her. I water all my plants by hand. I used to mix my own soil, but now I use Sunshine Mix #8 from Green Island, which works well for me. I keep the greenhouse temperature in the mid-70s. There's not a whole lot of magic going on here. I try to keep things simple."

Although Marisol produces approximately 25 different strains, Michael holds a special place in his heart for Nehi Grape. "It's an old hippie-garden strain from 33 years ago—a Northern Lights cross, and I think its partner was Old Christmas Tree." With a smile, he asks: "Does that sound familiar to you?"

Not really. Regardless, Michael created Marisol's signature super strain by crossing Nehi Grape and Hash Plant. He calls it Santa Maria, and it's as pure as the name implies—a heavy *indica* that offers soothing relief for physical pain. He uses it daily himself.

Michael's veneration for the cannabis plant is demonstrated in his gentle treatment of mother plants. "When we clone, we don't like to keep the mothers around like they're machines," he says. "We don't crucify the mother by never letting her have babies; it's what she was meant to do. So we honor that—and once she does reproduce, her life cycle is finished.

"Cannabis is a gift from the Creator," he adds, "pure and simple. We give thanks for that." ✨



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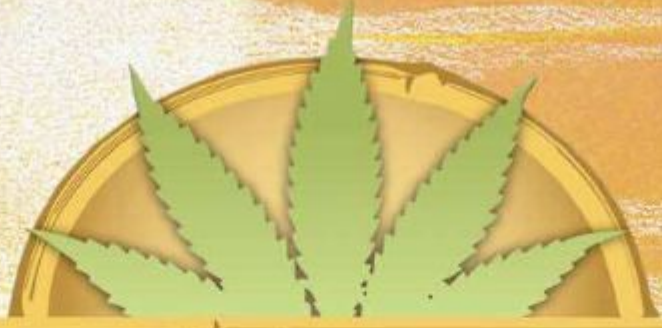
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HOW STRAINS ARE MADE

A Simple Look at Complex Breeding. By Nico Escondido

In the Beginning

In the beginning, the universe created *Cannabis sativa* L. Known more simply as “cannabis,” she is a beautiful woman and, like all earthly beings, what she desires most is companionship. Luckily, like most plant varieties, *Cannabis sativa* L. has both female and male counterparts. The female flowers comprise the buds that everyone knows as “marijuana.” They contain high amounts of cannabinoids, and they are what we smoke to get high. A male cannabis plant is generally nonsmokable (dangerously low cannabinoid levels!) and, instead of budding flowers, produces big sacs of pollen.

The rest of the story follows along the lines of that old tale known as “the birds and the bees”—quite literally in some senses. But what most people don’t realize about marijuana genetics is that there are, in fact, quite a few strains, each vastly different from the rest. This is because, unlike most plant varieties, cannabis occurs naturally all over the world. In the very, very beginning, there were only a couple different varieties, each on a different continent on its own side of the planet. These original varieties are known as *landrace strains*.

Nowadays, sure, there are many varieties that are only slightly different and, to the untrained eye, may even appear identical in every respect. (And if you have a shady dealer, maybe they are!) But don’t forget that there are many levels on which marijuana can differ. For instance, you have the look of buds—dark green, light green, purple, brownish, reddish, even white. Then you have the aroma—pungent, mellow, skunky, floral, piney, fruity and so on. Then you have the taste—citrusy, sour, sweet, berry, grapey, raw, spicy ... the list goes on and on. And we haven’t even gotten into potency or the actual high, not to mention a million cultivation-related aspects.

Taxonomy, Genotypes & Phenotypes

This is where story time ends and the serious stuff begins—so back to the landraces: These original strains all fall under the formal taxonomic classification of the genus *Cannabis*. However, under this genus, three putative species have been identified (though we usually encounter only the two smoking varieties).

Within the genus *Cannabis*, there exist the following three species: *Cannabis sativa* L., *Cannabis indica* Lam. and *Cannabis ruderalis* Janisch. (With the latter being the least-known variety, used mainly for its fibers). Although all of the original landrace strains belong to the same genus, they each fall under one of these categories of species as well. The plants in these three categories, or *taxa*, are largely indigenous to Asia, but their early histories indicate that they spread fairly quickly all around the world. The *C. sativa* species is most commonly found in mountainous regions (Asia, South and Central America), while the *C. indica* species is more often found in low-lying areas.

As members of the same genus, these species have very similar yet slightly differing genotypes. A *genotype* is the total combination of genes on the chromosomes and, sometimes, in other parts of the cell. Genes play two pivotal roles in an organism. First, they provide the physical mechanism by which individual traits and characteristics are reproduced and passed from generation to generation; this applies to both seeds and clones. Second, and perhaps most importantly for our purposes here, they regulate the morphological and physiological processes that determine the expression of specific characteristics in the phenotype.

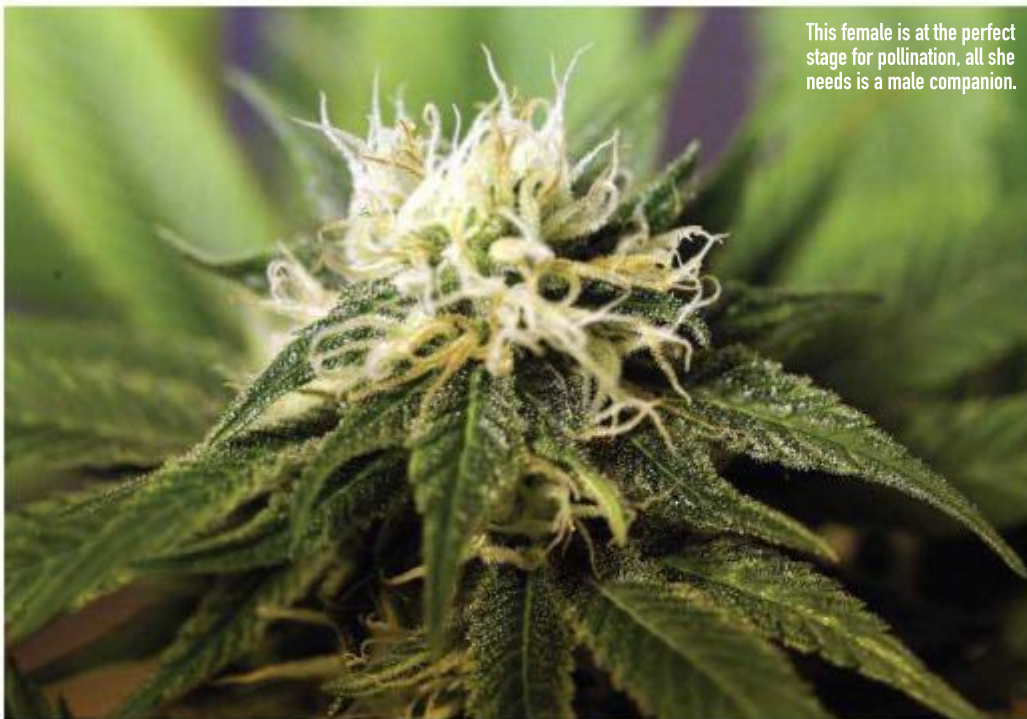
Phenotype refers to the overall appearance, performance and adaptation of the plant cultivar in a given environment. Phenotypes are the traits that cannabis breeders constantly monitor in their attempts to produce better marijuana. Phenotypes are different from genotypes, and the relationship is best described as follows:

Phenotype = genotype + environment.

This tells us that various environmental factors and conditions can induce a specific phenotype’s expression by influencing genes and the role they play. Breeders who are interested in creating new or better strains will search for new phenotypes by visual inspection and comparison to previous generations of the same line. When dealing with seeds or clones of the same lineage, breeders may choose to alter certain environmental conditions (for example, atmospheric conditions like temperature or tweaking the light cycle slightly) in order to find hidden characteristics that may be desirable to smokers or growers, which were previously buried away in the genetic code of that particular strain.

The purple color in this Blackberry bud is a product of both genetics and environment.





This female is at the perfect stage for pollination, all she needs is a male companion.



This hermaphrodite was a female, but with stressful conditions she began producing male pollen sacs within her young buds.

General Propagation

There are two primary methods by which cannabis plants are propagated. The first is via sexual reproduction, where the plants are propagated by seeds and designated as a specific plant line or strain. Seed germination is the most basic method for starting a particular strain. Seeds, however, are not always identical reproductions of a single genotype. As in any sexual reproduction, one male and one female plant combine to form a new hybrid seed. Unless both the male and female are from the exact same lineage, the offspring will have varying traits drawn from both parents. Finding both male and female parents of the same lineage can be difficult and, even if accomplished, it still doesn't guarantee that the offspring will express identical phenotypes.

A second method for plant propagation is an asexual technique in which plants are propagated as clones. *Clonal propagation* is fundamentally different from seed propagation in that clones originate from a single parent plant (in the case of marijuana, it's almost always a female plant, unless a breeder needs loads of pollen from a male). Clonal propagation is fast becoming the most popular choice among growers because it allows them to know exactly what they're getting from the mother plant. Clones are especially effective for larger grows and commercial operations, as they generally propagate faster than growing from seed and eliminate the chore of weeding out unwanted male plants from the garden.

Also, seeds are becoming harder and harder to find—at least for free—as the quality of marijuana increases. This is because the most potent marijuana is seedless, or *sinsemilla* (meaning “without seed”). Still, seeds can be procured in a variety of ways, most of which will cost the grower a little bit of money.

Buying seeds directly from breeders is often the best way to obtain true-breeding, quality seeds. However, buying seeds from reputable seed banks (retailers) or larger distribution companies is another a safe and viable method. Of course, the best way to secure seeds of your favorite strains is to pull them right out of the bag of ganja you just bought from your marijuana supplier. This requires a bit of luck, though, as most quality strains are grown in isolation, without the presence of male plants that can pollinate buds and thus create seeds. Still, even the best ganja will sometimes naturally become hermaphroditic and self-pollinate, producing a few rare seeds. Hermaphroditic plants can often be a grower's best friend.

A major problem in breeding is how to produce seeds without diluting the desired genetic line. Because seeds require pollen in order to form, breeders need to find both a male and female of the same strain that possess the particular phenotypes that the breeder wants. Sometimes, finding a male plant of a particular line can be daunting, as more and more growers turn to clonal propagation, thereby shrinking the male plant population significantly. Some breeders force their plants to become hermaphroditic via the use of chemicals to solve this dilemma. This is also how breeders have come to create the new and trendy *feminized* seeds. However, the plants grown from these seeds often have stability problems and high rates of hermaphroditism themselves.

CANNABIS AND TAXONOMY

Taxonomy is the practice and science of classification. In taxonomy, plant and animal classifications are organized in a descending system of general to more specific groupings, as follows: Life, Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species. All plants fall under the Kingdom classification of *Plantae*. Cannabis starts to differentiate itself under the taxonomic category of Family; it belongs to the Family *Cannabaceae*. Next comes the Genus, *Cannabis*, followed by the three known Species: *C. sativa* L., *C. indica* Lam. and *C. ruderalis* Janisch.

The scientific name of a plant includes the genus and species names (given in Latin), followed by an abbreviation that indicates the authority who first named the species. For example, the “L.” in *Cannabis sativa* L. refers to Carolus Linnaeus, who devised our taxonomic nomenclature system and first classified the *Cannabis* genus in 1753. Likewise, “Lam.” refers to Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck, the noted evolutionary biologist who discovered the *indica* species in 1785, while “Janisch.” denotes the Russian botanist D.E. Janischewsky, who first concluded that *ruderalis* forms a cannabis species of its own.

The final part of a plant's scientific name comprises the cultivar (line or strain) name, which is expressed in a common language. Thus, for example, if you were to call the Blueberry strain by its full name, it would look like this: *Cannabis indica* Lam. Blueberry.

It should be noted that Linnaeus—who was familiar only with the European hemp that was cultivated in his time—named the entire genus *Cannabis sativa* L. because he considered it to be *monotypic* (consisting of a single species). Since then, and in light of what we now know, the genus is simply designated as *Cannabis* L.

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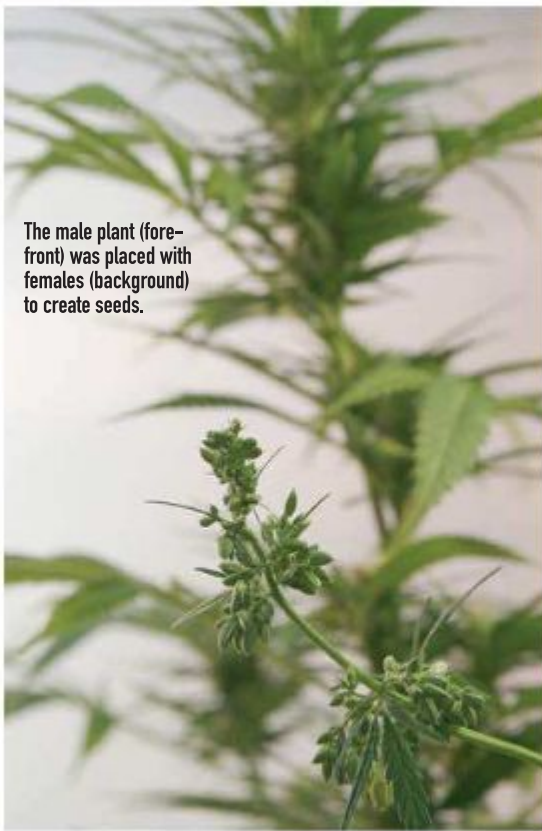
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The male plant (fore-front) was placed with females (background) to create seeds.



Breeders use breeding chambers like these to keep males, females and varying strains isolated until the time is right.

Selection of Phenotypes

The selection process in creating new strains is one of the most important aspects of breeding. *Selection* is the process of finding both a male and female plant from specific genotypes with which to produce seeds. Selecting different genotypes for use in sexual reproduction will result in the creation of a new hybrid strain. Selection of a male and female from the same genotype (line) will result in a new generation of that same genotype—one that may or may not express the same phenotypes of the parents.

Breeders are most often interested in crossing two different genotypes for the purpose of inventing a strain that will have new and desired characteristics, such as a different flavor or aroma or degree of potency. Sometimes breeders choose to use the same genotype for both the mother and father in order to strengthen characteristics that are already popular but not quite stable (meaning that they don't always reappear in the offspring).

In order to have a successful breeding program, breeders require lots of space that will allow them to make selections from hundreds or even thousands of plants. Selection is done by visual inspection of the plants in their mature state. Breeders look for basic characteristics in a population that they found favorable in the parents. These characteristics can include height, color, resistance to mold or insects, or any one of hundreds of other traits. The bigger the selection, the better the chances of finding the exact right parents.

Once parents of the same genotype are chosen, they are crossed either with each other in the hopes of uncovering hidden phenotypes of that same line, or with completely different genotypes from a different or previous selection to create a new hybrid line. When crossed with the same genotype, an *inbred line* (IBL) is created. This can be good, as it creates a homogenous garden for the grower, but it can also lead to reduced size and productivity—a condition known as *inbreeding depression*—if it's continued over multiple generations. In the case



A perfect picture of the female sexual reproductive organs—pistillates—in the early stages of development.

where different genotypes are crossed, the resulting genetic line will possess *hybrid vigor*, whereby the offspring show better size, strength, potency and yield than the parents, not to mention new sets of exciting phenotypes.

When two parents from differing genotypes are crossed, the result is called an *F1 hybrid*. An *F1 hybrid* is the first generation of a new strain. *F1s* usually show excellent growth and vigor, but are sometimes unstable. As such, breeders will produce hundreds of *F1* seeds to grow out and then select for the desired traits. Once the selection is complete, a breeder may choose to recross this new hybrid with one of the parents in order to stabilize or strengthen a particular characteristic. This is known as *backcrossing*. In order to backcross to the original parents, breeders must have an in-depth knowledge of both the strains they're working with and how genes work.

How Genes Work

Genes are the basic units of heredity. They provide the coded instructions within DNA that lead to the expression of hereditary characteristics. Gene pairing creates a pattern of genetics that is unique to each plant. These gene pairs can be likened to a zipper, where each side comprises a specific gene—one inherited from the mother and the other from the father.

Gene pairs are denoted by a pair of letters: CC, Cc, Nn, nn, and so on. Capital letters refer to dominant genes, while lowercase letters refer to recessive genes. Different letters refer to different traits of the plant, and any letter can be assigned to any gene pair when creating a breeding program.

An essential part of understanding how genes are expressed is to understand the relationship between phenotypes and alleles. As we've discussed, a phenotype is a summary of all the recognizable characteristics of a plant (smell, color, height, etc.) brought about by environmental conditions. An *allele* is the specific, alternative form of any one gene or characteristic. This differentiation is important to remember because it can help breeders isolate the specific traits of a phenotype that are desirable for the next generation of offspring in a breeding program.

Essentially, breeders try to figure out the frequency with which the alleles of a particular trait are expressed. A principle of genetics known as the Harvey-Weinberg Model states that dominant alleles will not necessarily always have the highest frequency (or appearance) within a population, nor will the recessive allele always have the lowest frequency. This means that when creating hybrids by crossing two different strains, the dominant traits will not be spread to the entire set of offspring, nor will the recessive traits die out completely.

Knowing this, breeders will map out their breeding program by assigning letter values to every possible allele of a given phenotype. This is why having lots of space for large-scale selection is so important to the breeding process. In order for breeders to ensure they have uncovered every possible allele, they first need to grow out large quantities of each parent and then an even larger number of their offspring. Once this is done and a population of a given gene pool is grown out, breeders can calculate the frequency of occurrence for a given trait by dividing the number of a specific type of allele by the total number of alleles in the gene pool.

Once a breeder selects those traits that he or she wants to breed into a new strain, they can determine by the frequency of those alleles whether or not backcrossing should be done in order to attain, or bring out, those desired alleles. If the frequency of those traits occurs in only a small percentage of plants, the breeder may decide to try backcrossing to a parent that possessed that allele as a dominant trait, thus redefining that allele and possibly making a more dominant trait with a higher frequency of occurrence.

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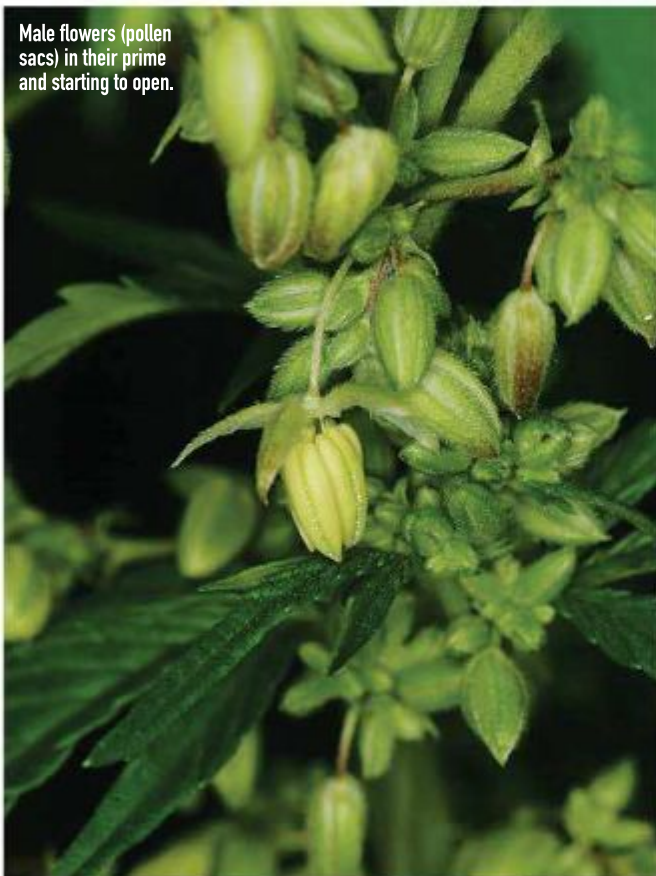
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Male flowers (pollen sacs) in their prime and starting to open.



Collecting pollen to manually apply to female plants flowers is one way to create seeds.

How Seeds Are Made

A seed is a matured ovule that contains a living embryo. Seeds are usually the result of sexual reproduction between two existing lines of cannabis, whereby a male plant pollinates a female plant. Sometimes, however, seeds are produced by a single parent plant that has become hermaphroditic and self-pollinated. (This most commonly occurs in female plants.)

Seeds have three main components; the embryo, storage tissue/food supply, and a protective covering. Female cannabis flowers, which are the buds we smoke, contain ovaries that hold eggs awaiting fertilization. Male cannabis flowers look like tiny bunches of bananas, but are really sacs full of pollen. These pollen sacs are called *calyxes*. In nature, where both male and female plants grow wild, pollination occurs during storms, high winds, and via animals or insects that transport the pollen. Male plants tend to grow taller than their female counterparts, which helps in this natural process. Pollination usually occurs from the middle of the growing season onward, depending on the region and climate.

Breeders, however, take a different approach, especially when growing indoors. Because most breeders have implemented very specific breeding programs in which they are searching for, replicating or trying to draw out certain known alleles, they must be very careful how they pollinate seed crops. Female plants in breeding programs are grown in strict isolation, and male plants are kept housed separately until the female flowers are ready for fertilization. This is known as *selective breeding*. On the other hand, *cross-pollination*, or pollination by multiple



This breeder is collecting full male pollen sacs to store and use later in a hybridization project.

male plants of varying lines, is a breeder's worst nightmare.

Breeders most often want the fertilization of their female plants to occur somewhere between the third and fifth week of flowering. This really depends on the strain being grown and the average finishing time of that strain. Most breeders will try to pollinate no less than four weeks prior to harvest; otherwise, the result may be nonviable seeds. It can take as long as six weeks for some females to produce viable seeds.

Males can drop pollen starting from 12 hours after their initial calyx formation and can continue for up to four weeks after. It's important to know that under a 12/12-hour photoperiod, males will produce their highest amounts of pollen—but males can drop pollen at any time, even under a 24/0 or 18/6 vegetative photoperiod. This is why many breeders try to manually collect pollen from isolated males in places far away from their flowering ladies.

There are two methods for pollinating female flowers. The first and most obvious is simply to move a male plant into an all-female flowering growroom (or tent, which happens to work very

well for breeding projects). This technique will allow an artificially "natural" pollination to take place, with fans and airflow replacing the wind and carrying pollen to all the female plants in the room. Still, this method may not result in even coverage.

The second technique, alluded to above, is to methodically apply pollen to the female flowers manually. To do this, pollen from males must first be collected and stored. This is fairly easy to do and involves simply tapping a calyx and catching the falling pollen in a container that is non-transparent and can be sealed airtight. (But be sure to label your pollen containers carefully!) To manually fertilize females, breeders will use small brushes or cotton swabs, dipping them in pollen containers and then gently applying the pollen directly onto selected buds. This process is very popular because it doesn't require pollinating the whole plant, which means that some select buds can still be kept without seeds.

After pollinating the female plants, it is crucial to maintain the same 12/12-hour light cycle that the flowering females have been on. Disrupting this photoperiod can have adverse effects on seed production—to say nothing of the fact that anytime a grower changes the photoperiod abruptly or in mid-cycle, the stress put on the plant can trigger a hermaphrodite effect, causing the creation of both selfed (i.e., a hermaphroditic parent fertilizing itself) and standard seeds. This will render the breeding project virtually useless, as the two types of seed will be indistinguishable.

One last important point worth mentioning is that, in some instances, pollination mistakes can actually be reversed. Pollen is easily removed by washing down female plants with fresh water, which will render the pollen nonviable. While this may disrupt trichome development, it will also prevent the production of seeds and save unnecessary headaches. ✨



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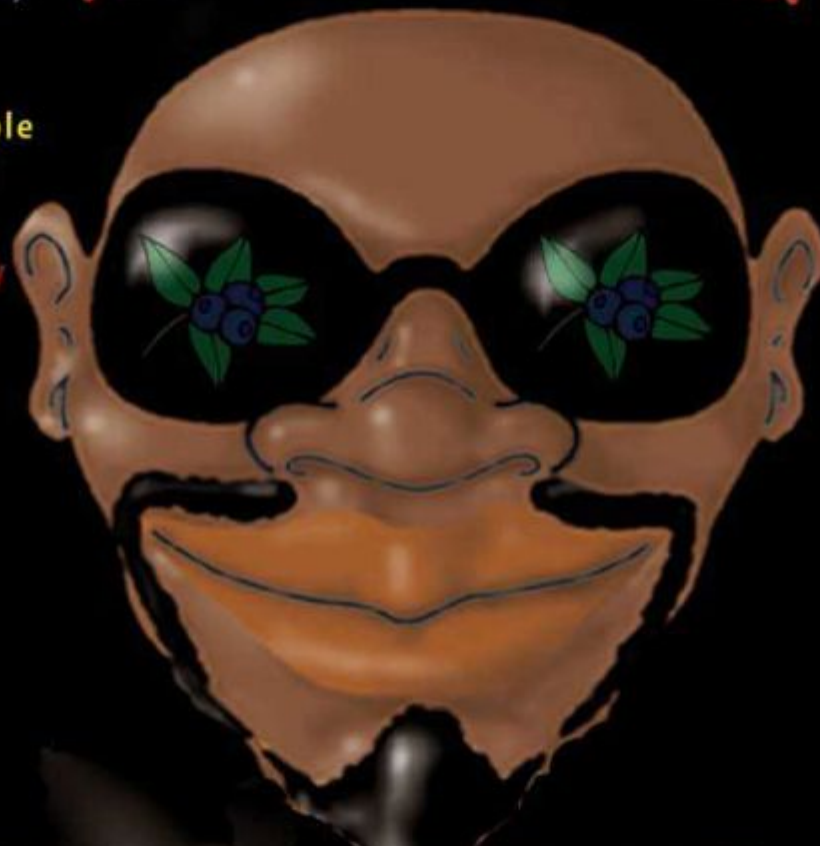
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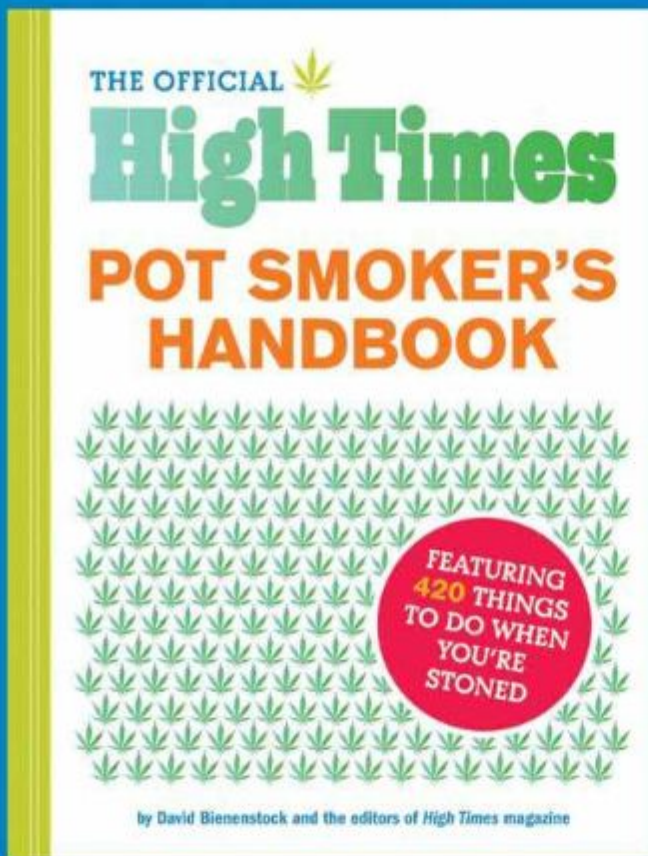
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It is said that Sasquatch has haunted the mountains of the Pacific Northwest since before the first white man set foot in the Americas. HIGH TIMES searches the wilds of the Cascade Mountains in a quest to find the legendary beast. Could this elusive animal possibly exist—or are we just smoking something way too strong?

BY CHRIS SIMUNEK / PHOTOS BY FREEBIE

FOOTSTOOL



INTO THE WILD

When you're out in the wilderness, any small gift is magic. Like right now, I'm waiting for the two Steves to wake up, and all I can think about is coffee. And when I get that coffee, I'm not going to care if it's Jamaican Blue Mountain or Folgers freeze-dried crystals.

Such is the nature of hunger: When want and need grow strong enough, any facsimile of the desired object can be fulfilling. Dogs like their Alpo, but they'll eat the carpet if you forget to feed them. A man might want a woman, but he'll settle for the Internet in a pinch. It's close enough for the moment, and in this modern world, "close enough" is the predominant compromise that enables us to get through the day, the year, the life.

So I'm sitting on top of my sleeping bag in the back of a rented Dodge minivan parked at the snowline at the foot of the Cascade Mountains north of Mount Rainier, dreaming about coffee. I could walk into the camp and start cooking it myself, but I'd wind up tripping a series of motion detectors that would turn on the video monitors inside the '79 Chevy van where the two Steves lie sleeping, and an urgent computer voice would say, "Alert, zone one," and then they would awake in a panic hoping that Sasquatch had finally come calling.

I'm surrounded by formidable mountain peaks covered in snow and pine trees. Next to the car, there's a bubbling river where, a few weeks before, thousands of salmon had swum against the current toward whatever spot it was that instinct told them they should spawn and die. It's early, and an Elysian mist hovers over the water. The ground outside is muddy and littered with empty beer cans, broken glass and thousands of shiny brass bullet casings. This spot has been host to many a hunting party, and though we are hunting and armed to the teeth, we have no desire to kill our prey. Some say that killing a Sasquatch and dragging its carcass in front of cameras and scientists is the only way anyone will prove to the skeptics that it exists. But the two Steves and I, our respect for the beast is too great, and to slay one would be to stain our lives and our legacies indelibly with innocent blood.

On the drive here, I was so convinced I would finally see Bigfoot that I feared he might jump into the road and I'd mow him down like a common buck. Back in New York, I'd already been talking to the Washington Sasquatch Research Team

(wsrt.com) over the phone when Steve Wilkins called one night to tell me they'd had a sighting. The other Steve, Steve Schauer, had seen "The Foot" cutting through the trees, but by the time they got the cameras working, he was gone.

About the two Steves

Steve Wilkins is a 20-year Navy vet. Steve Schauer is an ex-Army Ranger and a veteran of the combat in Grenada and Panama. To avoid confusion, I will from here on in refer to Wilkins, the younger of the two, by his surname.

It's an odd but true fact of life that people who look the same generally have a similar character. Wilkins, tall and thin, in his mid-forties and with a goatee, looks like my friend Paulie, whom I used to work with as a janitor in Long Island City High School back in the late '80s. He's got Paulie's bend-over-backwards-for-ya kind of kindness, and also Paulie's penchant for cracking jokes all day long that suggested you were a homosexual. Schauer, on the other hand, looks like Francis Ford Coppola, and though I've never met the godfather of *The Godfather*, Steve was definitely the director of this expedition. That was cool with me, because it seems like the things I've been in control of during my life—my career, my credit card, my first marriage—they all just end up fucked. I do have one thing going for me, and that's that I am a very lucky man. I don't have the room here to detail all the times in my life that, through no planning or effort on my part, something truly wonderful happened to me. So we're a good crew—Steve S. in charge, Wilkins making sure everything is running while cracking a steady stream of you're-a-fag jokes, and me, the lucky idiot who just might stumble upon the beast the next time I go to take a leak.

So the obvious question is: What am I doing here in the mountains of Washington state, looking for Sasquatch?

At the moment, what I'm doing is freezing my ass off and wondering if maybe a baby hit of bear repellent might jump-start my system and chase away the chill. The sun is out, and so is the moon—a white crescent against the pale blue sky. A bald eagle cuts through the valley. The river bubbles on its way down the mountain. This part of America that is more earth than talk is the only America I will ever pledge allegiance to.

What am I doing here?

I'm waiting for a vision. I can feel it. Sasquatch is here.

BEARS

THE FOOT FETISH

"In our modern world of concrete and steel, we're far removed from the Indian lore of Bigfoot. It's hard to imagine any corner of our crowded world where a giant, manlike creature could roam free. Yet there's persuasive evidence that Bigfoot is real, and that urban man may be close to his first meeting with this living legend."

—Leonard Nimoy, *In Search of Bigfoot*

It's these words that introduce the 1977 Bigfoot episode of the great documentary series *In Search of ...*, hosted by Leonard Nimoy. To my uncorrupted third-grade mind, this statement was an edict, a declaration of belief from Mr. Spock himself. Around that same time, there was also the famous Bigfoot episode of *The Six Million Dollar Man*, where Steve Austin faced off against the beast in a near-death brawl, only to find that Bigfoot was a bionic android much like himself. You can't be that young and bear witness to the one-two punch of Spock and the Bionic Man tangling with the existential ramifications of an eight-foot-tall mythical man-beast and not carry it with you for the rest of your life. That which you love first, you love always.

A few years back, after my first marriage broke up and it looked like I was going to get fired from my job, I used to search the Internet for Bigfoot stories. Inevitably, I would end up at the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization site, clicking on the audio files of Bigfoot calls recorded in the wild; it would make me laugh, and for a moment I was able to forget my troubles. Squatch was there for me. He wasn't the answer to my problems, but he was close enough.

"Wild man" myths exist in nearly every culture on the globe. Perhaps man, recognizing his own inner beast, needs a greater monster to point at and say, "At least I'm not that crude." Stories of the Yeti, the "abominable snowman" that haunts the mountain peaks of India, China and Nepal, were popular from the turn of the century through the '50s. Some have hypothesized that the Sasquatch is a relative of the Yeti, crossing over the land bridge that once connected Siberia to Alaska and working its way south through Canada to the Pacific Northwest down to California, where it spread to points east.

The Indians of the Washington state region were seeing wild men long before the pale-faced hordes invaded their land. In 1929, a reporter for a Canadian magazine collected stories from Indians of the First Nations in British Columbia about a wild man known in their dialect as *sesquc*, which he simplified to "Sasquatch." These were fearful beasts with supernatural powers that abducted women and children. One woman told the Canadian reporter that she'd been kidnapped by a Sasquatch, and had lived with him and his parents for 12 months. Finally able to get away, she returned home and gave birth to a Sasquatch child that died a few hours later.

In the mid-'50s, a retired logger named Albert Ostman came forward with a story he claimed to have been keeping secret for 30 years. In 1924, while prospecting for gold in British Columbia, he was abducted by a Sasquatch as he slept and car-

ried to a camp. His abductor, it turned out, was the patriarch of a family unit that included an adult female and two children, one male and one female. Ostman described in detail the anatomy of the Sasquatches—the drooping breasts and wide hips of the mother, the small penis of the father. Held for several days, he was only able to escape after the adult male ate the contents of his snuffbox in one gulp and grew violently ill.

In 1958, a cat-skinner named Jerry Crew, in the employ of the Wallace Brothers Logging Company, found an imprint of a gigantic foot on a worksite at Bluff Creek in Humboldt County, CA. Talking with the rest of his crew—including the foreman, Wilbur "Shorty" Wallace, who along with his brother, Ray, oversaw the construction site—Crew found that many of his co-workers had had similar finds. They called the elusive beast "Big Foot." Crew made a plaster cast of the imprint and brought it to a journalist for the *Humboldt Times*, which printed a

**'VEGETARIAN,
MY ASS! BIGFOOT
IS AN APEX
PREDATOR, MAN!
HE'LL TAKE
A DEER, GRAB
HIM BY THE LEGS
AND BASH HIS
HEAD AGAINST
THE ROCKS!'**

photo of Crew holding a ruler next to this 16-inch-long print. Eliminating the space between the two words, the paper dubbed it "Bigfoot," and the modern version of the legend was born.

After Ray Wallace died in a nursing home in 2002 at the age of 84, his son Michael produced a pair of wooden feet that he said his father had used to create the hoax. Was Michael trying to create a hoax of his own? Footers dismiss his claim, pointing to a study at Ohio State University that came to the conclusion that one could not fabricate tracks of the same depth as the Bluff Creek imprints with a simple pair of prosthetic feet.

Friday, October 20, 1967, is perhaps the most important date in the history of Footdom, as that is the day that the Patterson/Gimlin film was made. Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin were both rodeo men from Yakima, WA. Intrigued by the Bigfoot phenomena, Patterson invited his friend Gimlin to travel to the area around Bluff Creek with a camera and see what they could find. Traveling on horseback the morning of October 20, they had the shock of their lives when they spotted a female standing by the creek. The horses went nuts, spooking the creature. Patterson managed to get his camera working and caught 53 seconds of the thing shooting a cryptic over-the-shoulder glance at the intruders while walking away. Patterson died of cancer in 1972, claiming on his deathbed that he had seen a true

Sasquatch in the woods that day five years earlier. Gimlin refused to give an interview for 30 years, but when an acquaintance of his named Bob Hieronomous claimed to be the man in the ape suit, he emerged to call Hieronomous a liar (as did Patterson's widow) and attest to the veracity of the film.

In 2008, Bigfoot was in the news again when two idiots from Georgia stuffed an ape suit with animal guts, froze it in ice, and got coverage from media outlets as far and wide as ABC, CNN, Fox News and the BBC before the hoax was revealed.

Who is lying, and who is telling the truth—and is there any way to know? Too many times, I've seen men who were sworn to tell the truth lie like Corey Haim at an NA meeting. I watched Colin Powell stand in front of the United Nations and testify that Saddam Hussein had an active nuclear-weapons program. I watched Bill Clinton wag his finger in the face of America and insist that he was not a chubby-chaser. In 1982, I saw the Who at Shea Stadium on their "Farewell Tour." Was I hallucinating, or did they just play the Super Bowl?

Ostman, Patterson, Clinton, Townsend ... I've come to the conclusion that the truth is just one man's word shouted louder than the rest.

VALLEY OF THE BEAST

The first thing Steve did after we arrived at our base camp was open up a dozen cans of cat food and several packages of bacon and spread them around the perimeter. I asked him if that was really such a great idea, considering this was bear country and black bears especially are known to attack campers. He told me not to worry, that Bigfoot was king here and that Bigfoots and bears don't share the same turf.

Steve was pretty fearless. As an Army Ranger, he did some special ops in Panama and Grenada in the '80s and caught a few bullets for his efforts. In the summer, Steve sleeps out on the ground, beneath the stars, surrounded by his Bigfoot bait. When I asked him why, he said: "I want to look one of these creatures dead in the eyes. Like they say, it's the window to your soul. It will tell me, 'Are you an animal or more human? Do you have feelings? Do you have the love and the hate and everything else going on in there and you just want to stay away from people, basically?' So to have that close look, just to look in their eyes—it's one of those things that I want."

I made the mistake of mentioning that some people thought Bigfoot was a vegetarian, and Steve grew annoyed at my ignorance.

"Vegetarian, my ass! Bigfoot is an apex predator, man! He'll take a deer, grab him by the legs and bash his head against the rocks!"

Steve has set eyes upon the beast before. In addition to the indistinct sighting from a few weeks earlier, Steve had a brief, full-on encounter with a Sasquatch back in 1985. He'd been intrigued by the thing since he was a kid and the 1972 classic *Legend of Boggy Creek* scared the heck out of him. When he got back from Panama, he started actively hunting The Foot, driving his truck around the mountains at night, sleeping on the side of the road, and then driving around some more.



Bigfoot gets big yields.

"I was in these woods with a group of friends and a girlfriend of mine," he recalled. "My girlfriend was in my vehicle when we left. I was headed down in the valley; it was dark out. I hit my high beams and just lit up the whole area in front of me. Seconds after that, it stepped out into the middle of the road. In two steps, it crossed a two-lane highway without effort, just swinging, and it looked at me. And its face was that of what you would see in old, old photographs of Indians—*real* old Indians; they have flatter noses. It was about eight to nine foot tall, it was a male—no breasts—it had hair on its arms, on its legs, and it crossed without effort ... *zero* effort. Man would've had to take five, six steps to get across the road; it did it in *two*."

Over the years, Steve found himself alone on his hunts more often than not. A couple years back, he started surfing the Bigfoot chat sites and found Wilkins.

When I asked Wilkins why he hunted The Foot, I got the impression that he was out to prove a whole lot of people wrong about something.

"I hear these people with the Ph.D.s after their name on these Bigfoot shows with the opinion that it doesn't exist, and it's almost like they don't *want* it to exist. It doesn't fit into their little mold of evolution; it will send Darwin's theory of evolution into a tailspin. I just think it evolved separate from man, like maybe Bigfoot is a branch from the Cro-Magnon Man family tree that still exists in the wilderness. But you could have a Bigfoot sitting on the Oprah Winfrey show being interviewed, and there's still gonna be people in the audience saying, 'That's a man in a monkey suit.'"

Wilkins was a radioman in the Navy for 20 years, where he worked on destroyers setting up ship-to-shore data and voice communications. A family man now with a wife and a young son, he sets up the technical stuff in the camp.

Everything in the camp was being run on batteries: Wilkins had two 12-volt deep-cell RV batteries, and Steve had some gigantic thing that used to be part of a tugboat. With them, they ran all the lights, DVD recorders, monitors and laptops. Starting with the idea that Bigfoot is naturally curious when it comes to man, the Washington Sasquatch Research Team had four cameras connected to passive-infrared motion detectors (because standard infrared, the Steves feared, was visible in the dark to Bigfoots), all hardwired to the batteries and aimed toward the camp from about 30 feet away. Once the motion detectors were tripped, a signal would be sent to the walkie-talkies that would indicate the zone that the intruder had entered. At that point, everything would turn on—the floodlights, the cameras, the monitors—and then it would be: *Smile, Sasquatch, you're on Candid Camera.*

The two Steves believe that the Bigfoot who hangs out in this neck of the woods is an adolescent, more curious than an adult, which is why they were able to get that fleeting glimpse of him a month before. They call him "Stinky" because of the malodorous funk he emits when he's in proximity. One universally accepted fact among Footers is that Sasquatch smells like a gangrenous dog that ate a bunch of rotten fish

and then rolled around in its own vomit.

That first night, it started to sleet, and we were all huddled beneath a tarp, eating hot dogs and watching TV shows and movies that Steve had downloaded from the Internet: *12 O'Clock High* and, of course, *The Legend of Boggy Creek*.

Afterwards, I retired to the back of my rented van, where I could fire up the engine, roll up the windows, crank the heat and hope there wasn't enough carbon monoxide in the air to kill me in my sleep.

Alone in the dark, I wondered if Sasquatch was watching like the two Steves thought he might be. I was well aware of the fact that most people think that anyone who believes in Bigfoot is retarded—but what is belief, anyway, but the bastard son of hope and desire? I believe in ghosts. I believe that man is not as smart as he thinks he is. So Sasquatch, for me, wasn't much of a stretch. Maybe I'm paranoid, but I've reached the point where I believe that what we see out of the corners of our eyes is more real than that which confronts us face to face.



Perhaps there is a reason Bigfoot has proven to be so elusive. Could it be he has a secret to hide?

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE STINK OF SASQUATCH

I drank my coffee finally and the sun is out, but I'm feeling a little restless, so I start in on the beer. The Steves sense my boredom and suggest that I pop off a few rounds. We're well armed with two pistols—a Springfield .45 and a Ruger .357 magnum—and also a M483 Bushmaster rifle, the same one that the DC Sniper used for his reign of terror back in 2002. I fire them all until the tree stump I'm aiming at is as dead as it pretends to be, then we break for lunch.

Wilkins burns us a few grilled cheeses that aren't really up to either my or Steve's culinary standards, and we tell him so. Wilkins has a whole lot of dietary restrictions—he won't eat beans, he hates mushrooms, and the very thought of mayonnaise makes him wince. As far as I can tell, his favorite food is Red Bull, which he drinks all day and late into the night.

I ask Steve what the Washington Sasquatch Research Team hopes to accomplish in these cold woods.

"We're in a race against people who want to kill Sasquatches for fame, greed, money, fortune," he says. "I'm not some kind of tree-hugger, but I believe these things have to be protected. Before you know it, this species, this apex predator, is gone. You don't do that to the boss of the woods, and he *is* the boss of the woods—a regal creature that is probably closer to man than any other creature that is walking the earth."

"When you say that, I think of King Kong," I tell him. "They take the beast out of the jungle, shine the lights on him, and then all hell breaks loose."

"All hell breaks loose—and then they have to kill him," Steve agrees. "We brought him out of his environment, and now he's free and we can't deal with it. It's the same thing when you hear about a rogue elephant breaking loose and killing its trainer. Why didn't you just leave it in the forest or the jungle where it belongs? It doesn't belong balancing on a fucking ball, or a bear riding a fucking bike—what the hell is that shit?"

So we're choking down our food when a vicious stink wafts through the camp, like a German shepherd just went nuts at an all-you-can-eat ass buffet and then burped in our faces.

"He's here!" Steve shouts, and we're all out of our seats, scrambling for the cameras.

The woods are littered with a hundred years' worth of logging debris—bits of heavy metal cable, corroded machine parts and 50-gallon oil drums rusted to the point of disintegration. I climb over felled trees covered with emerald cut flat across the top two feet off the ground. There are empty beer cans and Dorito bags where someone (Squatch?) got their party on.

We huddle together, whispering, trying to divine the direction that the stench is coming from.

"Something's going on in these woods here," Steve says. "I keep hearing movement, but I can't see anything. They're probably over there saying, 'You smell that? It smells like man.'"

"One of them smells like he's from New York," I say.

"One of them smells Irish," Steve says.

"They all smell gay," Wilkins laughs.

We decide to pan out in the hopes of flushing Sasquatch out of the brush. Steve circles around to the east, Wilkins cuts straight through the center, and I follow the bank of the river to the west.

"If he comes at you, Chris, don't be afraid," Steve instructs. "Just fall down to the ground in a fetal position."

"Sure thing."

On the bank overlooking the river, I encounter something oddly out of place. There are several half-eaten salmon carcasses too far from the river to have been deposited there by the high tide of the recent spawning season. Their hollow eyes stare up at me as if they have a story to tell. Something with hands had carried them to higher ground.

I run into Wilkins, and he agrees with my assessment.

"It's one of those things," he says. "Inconclusive, but interesting."

After about half an hour, the smell disappears

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When tending to his garden, Bigfoot likes to crank the Ozzy.

and we head back to the camp. As we walk, Steve's a little apologetic that this is probably as close to Sasquatch as I'm likely to get on this outing.

"I've always said, 'You don't go looking for Sasquatch; Sasquatch will come looking for you.' That's the way it is, and if you mix that in with a whole lot of luck and you're ready, you're going to get that sighting. You're going to get what you want."

GODS AND MONSTERS

If we assume that Bigfoot is real and that men are closing in on this seemingly gentle monster, then we must prepare for that first meeting. To have eluded us for so long, Bigfoot must understand men very well. The burden will be on us to understand it. Bigfoot may well be waiting for some sign that we are ready.

—Leonard Nimoy, *In Search of Bigfoot*

Zeus turned himself into a bull and raped the virgin Europa while she was gathering flowers by a lake. Moses was kicking it with a herd of sheep when he saw the burning bush. The angel Moroni came to Joseph Smith in the upstate town of Palmyra, NY, and told him where to find a lost book of the Bible that described Jesus' travels through America. In February of 1974, Philip K. Dick, author of 44 science-fiction novels, answered the front door of his Los Angeles apartment, expecting to receive a delivery of the narcotic Darvon to help alleviate the pain from a recent wisdom-tooth removal. The woman who brought the package was wearing an amulet of a fish, the Christian symbol that you sometimes see on bumper stickers. The sight of her set off

two months of visions that came to Dick mostly in the form of a pink laser beam boring into his brain.

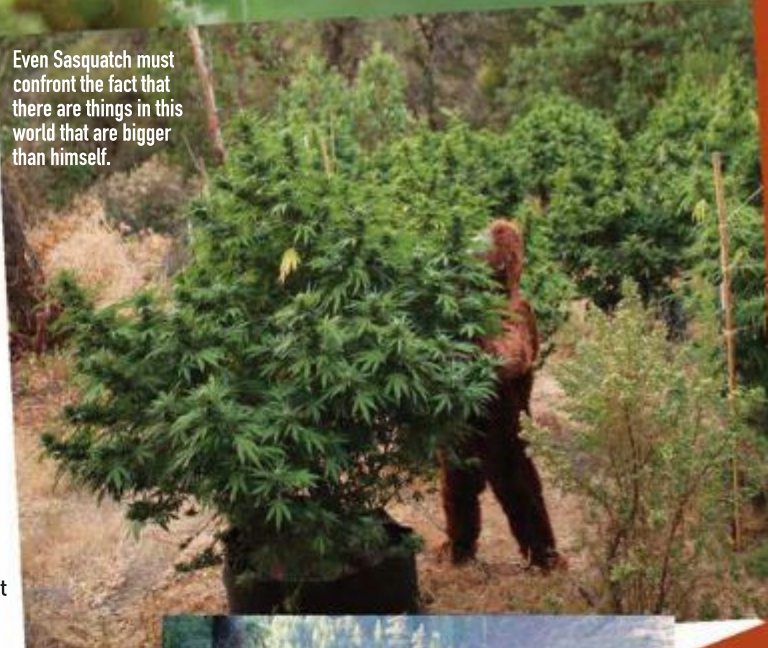
All of these visitations irrevocably altered the lives of those who received them. Often cruel and always unexpected, the impossible, when it comes calling on a person, is a burdensome gift.

Steve Schauer saw Bigfoot cross the road in front of his truck on a dark night in 1985, and of that I am a little bit jealous. I do not know what he was like before this happened, but I know that today Steve is a good man. When you meet a person who believes in something, and that something is not evil, not venal, not corruptive, but a thing of joy, you can't help but notice the way they shine.

We all had our reasons for being here—I wanted a vision, Wilkins wanted to prove a bunch of pencil-neck scientists wrong, and Steve wanted to spare something that he thought was beautiful from extinction. But there was something deeper as well, a drive that I believe has to do with the fact that we were all born into a fully mapped world, a place where mystery exists in dwindling supply. Man is drawn to the unexplained. Anyone who has ever contemplated the nature of God, any guy who has ever had a crazy girlfriend will tell you: That which confounds begs to be adored.

As I pack my gear into my rented Dodge van and hug the two Steves good-bye, yes, I'm a little disappointed that I only got a whiff of Sasquatch, and that he did not choose to reveal himself to me

Even Sasquatch must confront the fact that there are things in this world that are bigger than himself.



Steve Schauer and Steve Wilkins, ready for anything.

fully on this particular outing. Maybe, as Mr. Spock suggests, I'm not ready for it. Anyway, I still have my whole life ahead of me, a dozen years at least. On my drive back to Sea-Tac, out my Jet Blue window as I fly across the country, during my cab ride on the Van Wyck Expressway en route to my bed, I will still be looking for Bigfoot—out of the corners of my eyes, naturally, because that's where he lives. ✨

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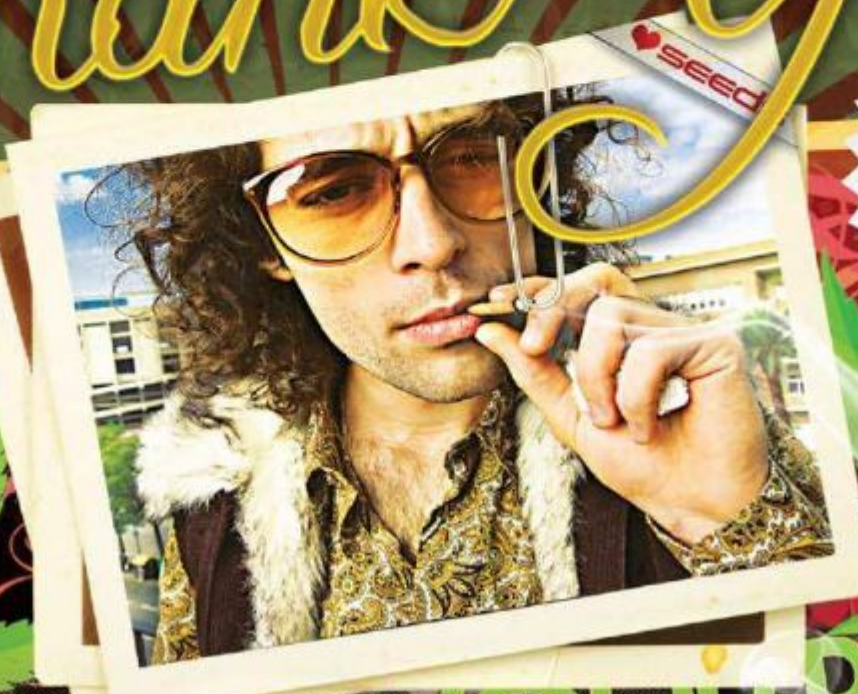
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GIANTS

OF THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

Take a behind-the-scenes look at a huge, federally authorized cannabis-cultivation facility that uses "hybrid hydro" techniques to grow massive amounts of medical marijuana for the pot patients of Canada.

Story & photos by Erik Biksa

CROW CANADA!

North of the US border, it's possible to operate a medical-marijuana growing facility and exist as a legitimate care provider under federal law. Following guidelines established by the Canadian government, these facilities are able to produce medical cannabis at a level that provides unique opportunities for experiments into improving growth rates as well as the quality and yield of the finished product.

The ability to operate freely within the guidelines set out by the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations (MMAR) has allowed designated growers to research the cultivation of medical cannabis and generate yields of some of the most potent and medicinally valued smoke in the world. Come take an inside look at a professional medical-marijuana growing facility, all 100 percent legit!

A roomful of
Canada's finest
medicinal quality
cannabis plants.

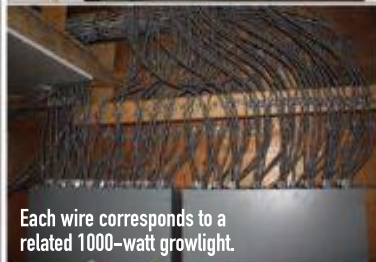




Vegetating plants are lit with compact fluorescents.



The electrical room was installed by an authorized professional.



Each wire corresponds to a related 1000-watt growlight.



CannaPharm's Chris Davis oversees the production of medicine.

CANNAPHARM

The CannaPharm Compassion Society (cannapharm.ca) is a nonprofit corporation that facilitates the cultivation of medical-grade marijuana for patients. I had the opportunity to inspect one of their operations recently and check out the cultivation methods and practices.

The facility featured in this article is situated in a quiet, semi-rural area where there is lots of space between neighbors. Within close proximity lies the thriving and lush green metropolis of Vancouver, BC. Upon getting out of your vehicle and approaching the building, you begin to notice that you are under the watchful eye of a security and video-surveillance system. But there are no pit bulls, electrified fences or anything of that sort here—just a nondescript private home with a large outbuilding and a perimeter surrounded by a chain-link fence.

Once you walk through the door of that outbuilding, you find yourself in an open foyer. Walk around the corner and through another regular door, and you're standing in an impressive medical-marijuana grow op that runs multiple 1,000-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps in three different grow-rooms. This facility also includes one very impressive-looking electrical

room, as well as a centrally located reservoir-mixing area and material-handling space.

The entire interior of this seemingly normal building has been completely renovated into a custom-built medical-marijuana grow house. Besides being impressive in sheer scale, the facility offers the ability to gain higher levels of knowledge in cultivating superior quality cannabis. While operating discreetly for security purposes, the facility nevertheless can exist in the open thanks to Canada's medical-marijuana laws.

IT'S ELECTRIC

The electrical room houses significant numbers of 1,000-watt metal halide (MH) and high-pressure sodium (HPS) ballasts drawing over 400 total amps of power! For safety, and to ensure trouble-free cropping cycles, the ballasts and other components have all been installed and certified by an authorized commercial electrician to meet or exceed local building and electrical codes.

To reduce the number of ballasts required while maximizing the number of lamps (and therefore yields), high-amperage lighting relays (a.k.a. flip-flops) have also been installed in the main electrical room. The lighting load from each ballast is transferred via the relays to two separate lighting systems on a timer. Basically, every ballast runs two lamps—just never at the same time.

VEGETATIVE GROWING FOR HUGE PLANTS

The room for vegetative growth is relatively large in proportion to the two independent flowering rooms used here. Usually, a smaller space is required for vegetative growth; however, this facility grows some *seriously* big plants. One of the restrictions placed on medical-marijuana growers in Canada is the number of plants that may be cultivated. To maximize production and keep costs down, fewer plants are grown relative to the size of this facility—but these plants can finish at approximately 6 feet tall, with large, dense and heavy buds covering the well-branched plants from top to bottom.

From the early growing stages all the way through harvest, the plants are broadsided with vertically oriented 1,000-watt HID lighting. No

reflectors are used on the vertical bulbs; instead, the lamps are suspended about one-third of the way down from the tops of the plants. This provides a wide area of intense side lighting, promoting very large and bushy plants. MH lamps are used throughout the vegetative-growth stage, as their higher portions of blue spectrum help to keep these Chemdog #3 (Canadian OG Kush) plants growing nice and tight, with big, healthy leaves and dense branching patterns. These plants will spend a significant amount of time in the vegetative stage before they gain enough stature to enter the bloom or "bud" phase of growth.

Chemdog provides some of the best medical marijuana around—it's extremely potent, with some very complex characteristics in terms of taste, smell and psychoactivity. However, it grows rather slowly and doesn't produce many new budding sites after the initiation of the flowering stage with a 12/12-hour photoperiod. As a result, the plants here are grown in the vegetative stage for over two months under 18 hours of HID light before they are placed into flowering. By the end of the vegetative-growth phase, the plants are about 5 feet tall and 4 feet in diameter, making the inside of this facility look a lot like an indoor Christmas-tree farm.

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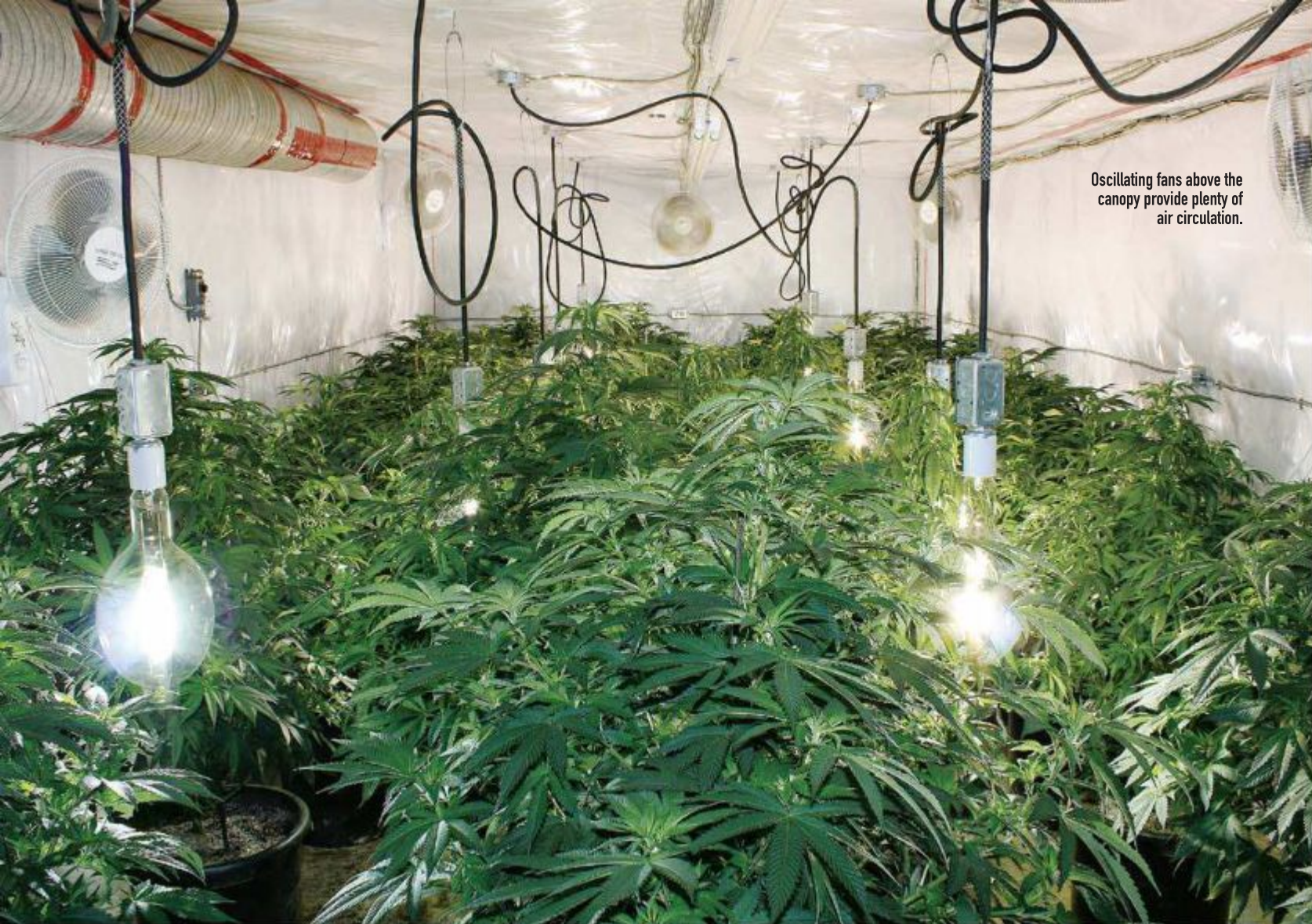
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A LIVING MIX

Research has shown that the growth rate of Chemdog in both the vegetative and budding phases can be accelerated by hydroponic growing methods. However, when it comes to medical marijuana, a high turnover rate for the crops is far less important than their quality. Through informal testing, it was found that patients preferred the medicinal effects of cannabis plants grown in soilless mix over purely hydroponically grown plants, so all of the cannabis harvested here is grown in an airy, commercial-peat-based growing mix. However, this medium only holds the roots in place while providing little to no nutritional value (similar to rockwool in a true hydroponic system, but without the concerns over the use of heat-spun rock with its fiberglass-like particles).

The peat mix provides the ideal environment for beneficial microorganisms to thrive, maintained through regular applications of microbial inoculants such as Voodoo Juice, Piranha and Tarantula.

These inoculants contain highly specialized species of fungi like trichoderma and mycorrhizae, as well as bacteria like bacillus and pseudomonas, that colonize the plants' root system and growth medium.

Beneficial plant inoculations promote very large and healthy root masses that can take in higher levels of water and nutrients to produce massive yields of potent medicine. The plants are also better able to resist pests and diseases naturally, both at the leaves and the roots, after being treated. The inoculations take place periodically throughout the vegetative-growth phase and during the first two to three weeks of flowering.



Large containers ensure huge root systems and bigger harvests.

MORE ROOT, MORE FRUIT

Because the plants will finish very large, an extensive root system is desirable both to anchor and feed them. The beneficial microbial products and other specialty nutrients help to encourage roots, but the massive 55-gallon drums used to pot the plants (each drum sawn in half and used for two separate plants) give their root systems plenty of space to develop. This means that each plant has over 20 gallons of high-quality, commercial-peat-based growing mix to anchor and help feed its roots with specialty nutrient solution. A drainage layer is placed at the bottom of each pot, consisting either of perlite or grow rocks. It's been shown that deeper and larger volumes of growth medium promote significantly larger yields, and these yields are encouraged even further with the addition of the beneficial plant inoculants.

In fact, these plants get so big and healthy that they require lots of additional support to hold up the weight of their branches and buds. To this end, an ingenious trellis system has been developed and implemented here. A length of 1/2-inch PVC pipe is inserted into each pot, like a traditional garden stake, to a height of about 6 feet from the top of the

container. On top of the 1/2-inch PVC pipe is a modified PVC cross fitting. Four lengths of 1/2-inch PVC pipe (about 2.5 feet each) are inserted into the cross fitting, which then has a wood screw drilled through its center to securely attach a length of 1/2-inch-diameter wood dowelling. The dowel is then slid into the top of the 1/2-inch PVC upright, securing a 5-foot-diameter cross to the top. Webbing is created by running common garden wire through the perimeter of the horizontal cross, which then runs down vertically and is secured into holes drilled into the upper lip of the container. You can see this trellis system in the photos accompanying this article.

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Circular trellises similar to tomato cages keep branches from dropping, and maximize light to the plant tops.

HYBRID HYDRO

The plants are fed a complete nutrient program developed specifically for medicinal cannabis. Formulations such as Nirvana, SensiZym and Kushie Kush, and base nutrients like Connoisseur or Iguana Juice, have been shown to produce significant increases in the quality, potency and yields of the cannabis grown at a number of CannaPharm's facilities.

All of the plants are watered from central reservoirs where the nutrients are mixed. The nutrient solution is top-fed to the individual pots via hoses and watering wands. This allows skilled crop workers to adjust how much each plant gets and when. It's a lot like a typical hydro drip-feed, but smarter and better suited to meet the individual needs of these massive plants.

Even though there's a significant mass of growing medium in each pot, care is taken to ensure that nutrient residues do not accumulate to levels that are harmful to plant health throughout the relatively long cropping cycle. (Remember that these plants are vegged for over two months and will spend another seven to 10 weeks completing the bloom cycle.) Following a hydroponic-style "feed/feed/water" regimen helps to keep nutrient residues from building up, as do applications of digestive enzymes in the nutrient solution. The plants are also flushed with plain water and more digestive enzymes (SensiZym specifically) for approximately the last two weeks before harvest.



A security monitor sits above a nutrient reservoir.



Constant pH monitoring ensures success.

INCREASING POT POTENCY

A higher level of potency can be coaxed from the plants by leaving them in uninterrupted darkness for 24 to 48 hours before harvest. Well-documented scientific research has shown that cannabinoid production is highest during the dark hours of the photoperiod, so these hours are prolonged as harvest time approaches.

Each of the plants grown here easily yields what hobby growers may get from a typical 4' x 4' space— but remember that this is being achieved by just *one* large, healthy plant as opposed to a dozen or so in the same area. Granted, the cropping time is longer, but the overall yield and quality are certainly worth the wait. Besides, with multiple flowering



Expend air is exhausted through light-tight vents that can be shut when needed.

rooms and a dedicated veg room, plants that are ready to be flowered can be placed into the budding rooms after each harvest. There is only enough down time between crops to trim and process the plants and clean out the room for the next batch.

BLUE DREAM



BLACKBERRY
KUSH
HIGH TIMES





CHEMDOG



12 Plant PhD's Discover

The Japanese Engineering
Breakthrough That's Allowing Growers

To Multiply Their Yields

From Their Plants Within
The Same Bloom Time



We all want our plants to get into peak bloom phase faster and to yield a bigger harvest. Now, a team of 12 plant PhD's and their research assistants believe they have found the answer ...

"The secret," says Dr. Savov, "is we implement the Japanese engineering principle of continuous improvement – called kaizen – into developing a better 2-part premium bloom base fertilizer. The principle of kaizen states that small, continual improvements at each step of a multi-part process equals a much larger, compounded total increase in performance in the final product."

Compound Improvement ... The Most Powerful, Plant Growing Force In The Universe?

Much like Albert Einstein called compound interest, "the most powerful force in the universe"—these small, continuous improvements at each phase of a multi-part process yield a very powerful, impressive end result.

So, when it comes to a premium bloom base fertilizer — a team of 12 PhD's working for Advanced Nutrients in a leading Bulgarian research lab simply found multiple ways to improve upon each stage of the two-part process of growing plants.

In the end, it worked exceptionally well to achieve a bigger, compounded, yield — in at least one documented head-to-head, consumer trial — over 40% bigger!

How This Scientific Breakthrough Gets Your Plants Into Bloom Faster and Multiplies Their Yield Without Increasing Your Bloom Time

First, the scientists wanted to improve upon the actual ingredients used in their 2-part formula. The idea was to give you better "Building Blocks" for your plants to use to get bigger yields, more colorful flowers, a stronger aroma and maximum potency. This was the first stage the team improved upon.

Next, they wanted to enhance your plant's abilities to get the maximum absorption of these nutrients because having the highest quality ingredients without ensuring your plants can fully absorb them is worthless. The scientists discovered that most growers aren't seeing bigger yields with other fertilizers because their plants aren't able to effectively absorb the nutrients being used.

Obviously, improving the absorption abilities of your plant greatly compounds the effectiveness of the high quality ingredients being used! Lastly, in an effort to maximize every part of your plant's deepest core levels of plant bloom metabolism and floral production, the scientists developed a proprietary blend of floral growth co-factors to activate and control these core issues.

These co-factors include amino acids and amino acid precursors essential to protein formation which promote cellular metabolism, replication and other bloom processes. In addition, other proprietary co-factors create enhanced changes in how plants carry out bloom

phase functions.

Let's examine how the scientists improved these phases in developing the ultra-premium, 2-part bloom base nutrient for Grand Master Growers – Connoisseur!

Instead of using low-quality, questionable ingredients—the team at Advanced Nutrients invested heavily in putting to use only the most potent, most effective, most proven ingredients possible (ingredients no other company uses because of the high cost to both source and manufacture these ingredients into bloom fertilizers!)

How To Ensure Your Plant Gets The Maximum Uptake Of Nutrients ...

To start with, every single one of the micro-nutrients used in Connoisseur is chelated so you get maximum absorption and uptake of these amino chelates into your plants. With a theoretical absorption range of pH 1-10, this in effect means you get the highest absorption rate possible of these life-giving micronutrients for as long as your plant is alive!

What's more, Advanced Nutrients, has also invested heavily into chelating a high percentage of the macro-nutrients used in Connoisseur to get your plants to bloom faster and keep them in that bloom phase longer!

How Growers Of High Profit Plants Are Making More Money With This One, Simple Scientific Breakthrough ...

If you count on your plants to make you money, you're going to love Connoisseur!

Here's why commercial growers of rare and profit-producing plants love this comprehensive hydroponics fertilizer formula ...

- You get a faster time to peak bloom time ... meaning you get to sell your plants faster!
- You get more flowers and more weight per flower ... which means more money per plant!
- You get more aroma, more taste, and more color in your plants ... which means you get more satisfied and repeat customers!
- The bottom line? You get more profits per each crop cycle!





GROWING GIANTS

Chris Davis, the director of the CannaPharm Compassion Society, found some free time in his busy schedule to answer a few of our questions.

Chris, what inspired you to go against the grain, so to speak, and begin to help patients receive medical marijuana for the treatment of their conditions?

About four years ago, a close family friend's parent was suffering greatly from spinal-cord disease, and I was able to witness firsthand the difference in the quality of her life and the ease in her suffering that medical marijuana provided. From there, I knew I had a purpose, which now manifests through the CannaPharm Compassion Society.

What would you describe as some of the differences between the medical marijuana that you help to facilitate for patients versus the marijuana that might be obtained on the black market?

Firstly, we ensure that all of our



These medicinal cannabis plants are a tall order.

facilities operate under a strict set of high standards that we have developed. This ensures that all medical marijuana produced is free of contaminants, such as harmful molds or mildews; doesn't contain dangerous pesticides or other chemicals; and has been well flushed prior to harvest to avoid any fertilizer residues from occurring in the finished product. These measures and oth-

ers help us to provide clean, safe and effective high-grade medicine.

When patients are forced into obtaining their medicine in the black market, they become vulnerable to the threat of prosecution, criminal rip-offs or violence—and there is also the possibility that their medicine will contain contaminants due to unscrupulous or uninformed cultivation methods.

Furthermore, they may not receive the consistency in potency that our clients have come to expect.

Based on your experiences cultivating medical marijuana, what are three things that you have found to have a significant impact on either the quality of the medicine or the yield?

Attention to detail—with any growing operation, be prepared to make a significant investment of time and patience in developing and maintaining a cropping program for your particular strains. This includes watering routines, pruning and training, the right planting densities, and just too many details to speak of here.

We have found that having the right fertilizer program is essential to not only the yield, but the levels and ratios of THC, CBD and CBN [the active ingredients in cannabis]. Knowing when to apply the right type of nutrient ratios, vitamins or co-factors at the right time can really make some huge differences. We exclusively use nutrients, additives and beneficial inoculants specifically formulated for medical marijuana.

As you know, we like to do a lot of R&D at CannaPharm. If you're serious about growing, you have to experiment. The yields and quality we achieve didn't come overnight—it took several years of cropping trials to determine which strains and methods of growing them out gave our clients the type of medicine that was most effective for a variety of conditions. Truthfully, we could be growing higher-yielding strains, but they are just not as effective for our patients' needs.

Check out more from Erik Biksa at hydroponicsecrets.tv.



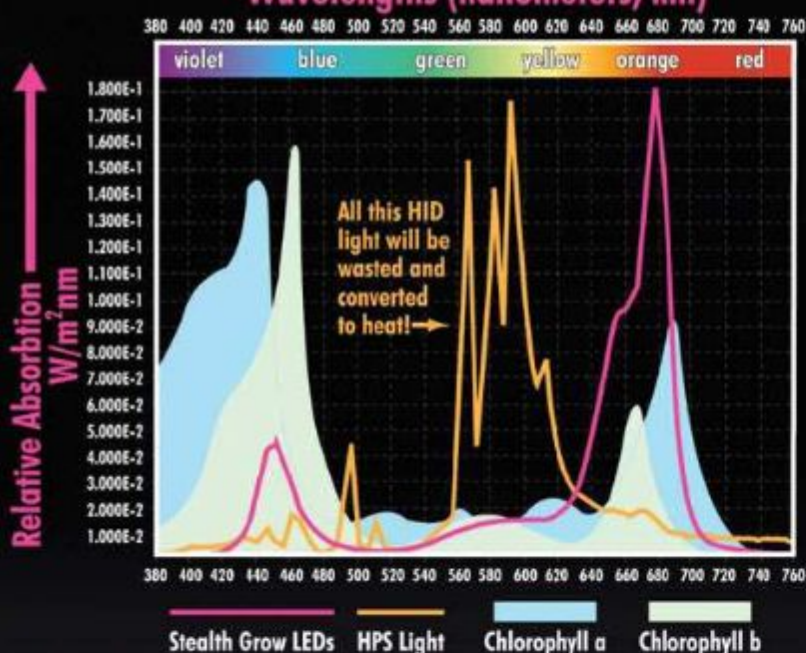
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Color Spectrum – Stealth Grow LED's four chip color spectrum is patent pending. Stealth Grow LED's minimize unnecessary wavelengths of light and focus on efficiently producing the usable spectrum that plants can absorb!

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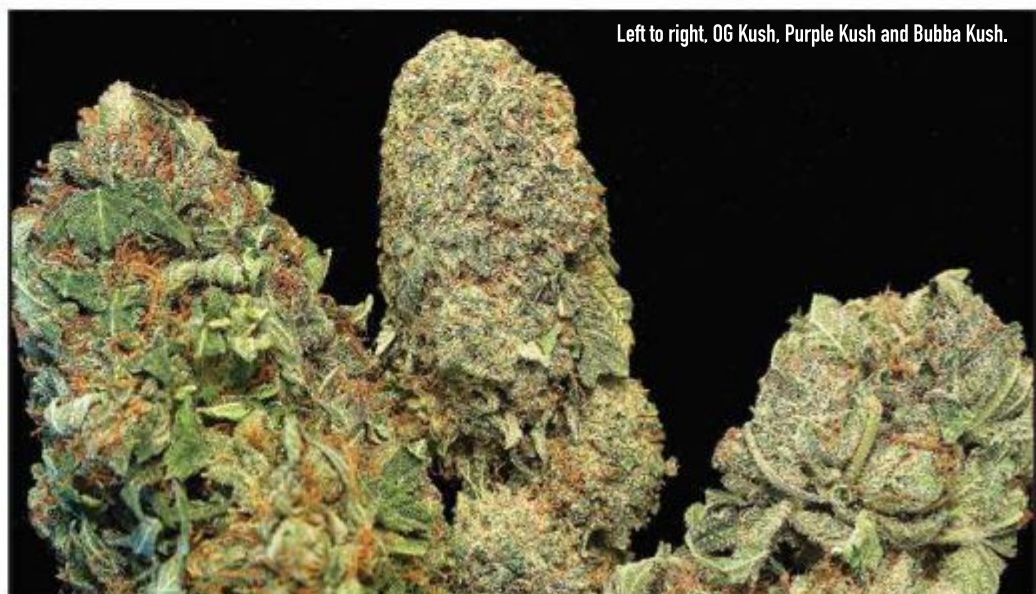
In order to process the crop more efficiently at harvest, automated trimming machines are used. These industrial crop trimmers do an excellent job of manicuring the excess leaves from the buds without damaging the trichomes (the fine glands containing the resins that give cannabis its medicinal effect). Once the branches have been prepped, the untrimmed buds are placed into one end of the machine and come out perfectly trimmed on the other. It may take only five to 10 minutes to process a pound of manicured, high-potency buds after the untrimmed buds have been removed from the stocks.

In Canada, medical-marijuana growers are not permitted under the federal guidelines to further process the trimmed material or buds (for example, by concentrating the resins into hash, oils or tinctures). The harvested buds are carefully dried on a series of racks and screens. The internal environment of the drying room is carefully monitored, and the buds are gently inspected throughout the drying and curing process to ensure that no post-harvest diseases or contaminations occur.

MEDICINAL QUALITY

After drying and curing, the medical-grade cannabis is packaged into vacuum-sealed packs to maintain freshness and potency. Strains like Chemdog can be extremely pungent, so if they're not professionally packaged, transporting or carrying even a small amount of medicine can lead to hassles for the patient. The CannaPharm Compassion Society works closely with its clients and values their feedback—the society even provides subsidies to those enduring financial hardships, as well as free vaporizers. The patients are also given lots of information to help them make intelligent and informed choices about their medicine.

Finally, people who wish to use medical marijuana are required to obtain an Authorization to Possess (ATP) license from Health Canada, but this isn't a quick or simple process. The conditions for which medical marijuana is authorized are quite grave—for example, cancer, HIV/AIDS, spinal-cord damage, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and severe arthritis. The patient's condition needs to be verified and the application approved by a general practitioner who holds a title with a Provincial College of Physicians. The application is then reviewed and processed by the federal government before the individual is issued an ATP license. ✨



Left to right, OG Kush, Purple Kush and Bubba Kush.



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THE CIA'S LSD ATTACK

An entire French town mysteriously went insane in the summer of 1951, and for nearly 60 years, there's been no concrete explanation of exactly what happened. Until now—according to a new book, the incident was the result of a Cold War experiment gone horribly wrong, an experiment using a recently discovered drug called LSD. The cause of this tragedy has been one of the CIA's most closely guarded secrets—and a US Army scientist was murdered to keep it hidden. **By Steven Hager**

Friday, August 16, 1951, was a day unlike any other in the ancient town of Pont-Saint-Esprit, a close-knit community on the banks of the Rhone River, founded in the fifth century and filled with Roman and medieval architecture. The first victims in what soon became known throughout France as *le pain maudit* ("the accursed bread") were animals. An astonished Laurain Moulin watched her cat suddenly go into convulsions and keel over dead in the kitchen. Moulin opened the door to the barnyard and saw several ducks staggering by, while others marched in unison, acting more like penguins. Another was lying dead on the ground.

By early evening, the local doctors' offices were filled with patients complaining of nausea, upset stomachs, insomnia and chills; their pupils were dilated, their temperature and blood pressure below normal. By morning, hundreds more were exhibiting the same symptoms. One woman in her twenties began having seizures. That night, two of the town's three doctors met to compare notes and concluded that over 200 people had been stricken by some sort of food poisoning that was linked to the town's favorite baker, Roche Briand. Wide-eyed and babbling, townspeople began appearing on street corners at all hours, some acting paranoid, others wearing beatific smiles and speaking of universal love; still others were dizzy, confused and had trouble executing the simplest chores. A few were hallucinating so wildly that they could barely distinguish fantasy from reality. An ambulance was called for an elderly man named Felix Mison, who seemed on the verge of a heart attack.

At 6 a.m. on Sunday morning, Emile Testevin was spotted lying naked on the ground near his home, writhing as if in intense pain. He was brought inside by his mother. Although Emile's father was already hallucinating, he took a wobbly bicycle ride to fetch the nearest doctor. The physician was puzzled by the behavior of the elder Testevin, who seemed positively bursting with euphoria while reporting his son's condition. Emile's father hadn't slept for two nights and was alternating between fits of depression and bursts of incredible energy and strength. As it turned out, barbiturates and other sleeping medications had little impact on Pont-Saint-Esprit's growing population of insomniacs, although they did seem to help with some of the convulsions. It was at this point that the doctors began to suspect ergotism as the cause of the mysterious outbreak.

Ergot is a parasitic mold that can form on rye, wheat and other cereal grains in high humidity. During the Middle Ages, epidemics of ergotism had appeared sporadically in Europe, usually after heavy rains during the harvest season. Symptoms included convulsions, seizures, nausea and vomiting. Many of the afflicted also experienced strange hallucinations, and their fingers and toes became gangrenous. The disease became known as "St. Anthony's fire," named after the order of Roman Catholic




The bridge at Pont-Saint-Esprit was built around 1300.

monks who became famous for treating the illness (although their treatment consisted of little more than putting patients in a hospital filled with religious icons). In 1650, a fungus was first suspected as the cause of the epidemics, but it wasn't until 1676 that the first mention of ergot appears in the English language. The most severe outbreaks took place in Gatinais in 1694 and Wurttemberg in 1735, although today some researchers believe that the Salem witch trials of 1692 were also the result of ergot poisoning.

Felix Mison died on August 20, the outbreak's first human casualty. By Monday morning, the 14th Mobile Brigade of Montpellier and other police officials and toxicologists began filtering into town in the first attempts to restore calm and determine the cause of the illness. However, things were destined to get significantly worse before they got better. One hour before midnight on Friday, August 23, shrieks and screams began resounding throughout the town—screams that would continue into the morning. The next day, the streets were filled with people in various states of undress, some completely naked, babbling incoherently. Some people believed they were being eaten alive by snakes or insects; others became violent and tried to strangle their friends or relatives. It was especially wrenching to see children in the throes of such psychic distress. Homes were trashed as the residents piled furniture against the doors and windows to protect themselves from imaginary invaders.

Unfortunately, the police responded with the worst possible tactic: tackling and restraining the delusional people and forcing them into overflowing barns and other makeshift hospitals that were being set up all around town to isolate the sick. At times, it took a dozen men to capture and subdue a single person. The following day, reinforcements arrived in the form of the militia, armed with more ambulances and more straitjackets. It was decided to move the most delusional people into secure asylums, a strategy that merely amplified their desire to escape, while isolating them from the comfort of their familiar surroundings. Those who resisted violently were given electroshock therapy at the asylums, increasing their pain and confusion.

The police arrived at Emile Testevin's home and insisted that he be taken to the asylum despite his family's objections. Although Emile was calm now, he'd experienced some violent moments, and the police were concerned about what might happen should the 200-pound giant become agitated again. Emile was loaded into an ambulance already filled with psychotics who couldn't understand why they were being removed from their homes or where they were going. One old man cried out, "My belly is full of snails! I am sending out radio messages everywhere. Get me an X-ray and you can see!"



Hundreds were captured in nets used to subdue wild dogs and at least 50 were later taken to asylums.

When the ambulance arrived at the asylum outside Marseilles, Emile was the last to be unloaded. Seven men couldn't remove him from the vehicle. The orderlies approached with a straitjacket, but when they tried to put it on him, Emile grabbed it and ripped it in half. The militia arrived with more men and more straitjackets. Emile tore through six more jackets before he could be subdued. He was taken inside, strapped to a bed and locked in a secure room. But when an orderly came back to check on him, Emile had somehow eaten through the leather straps (breaking many of his teeth in the process) and was bending the iron bars in the window so he could escape. Six orderlies were needed to move him to a subterranean room with no windows. By now, two other men had died, along with a woman who suffered from hyperthyroidism. The woman reportedly showed the early stages of gangrene on some of her toes, an almost certain indicator of ergot poisoning. Depending on whose statistics you trust, between five and seven people (most of them elderly and frail) would eventually die from the mysterious illness.

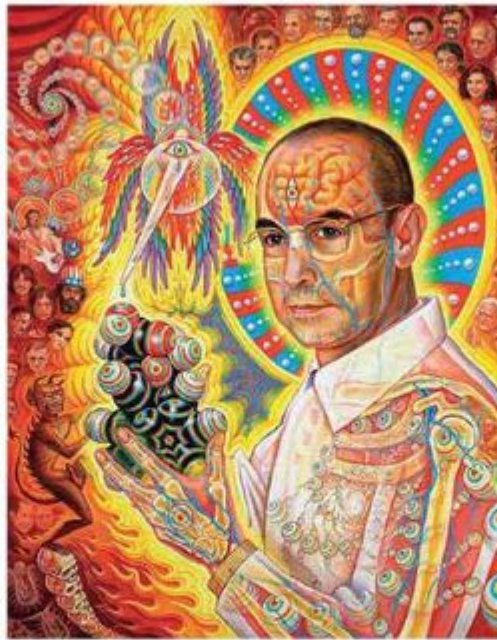
But just as the ergot theory was taking hold, an autopsy of Felix Mison, the first victim, indicated traces of mercury in his system. Although no traces of mercury would ever be found in bread samples or any of the other victims, many of the investigating scientists rushed to conclude that mercury-treated seeds were the culprit. Case closed.

Unexpectedly, however, two scientists from the prestigious Sandoz Laboratories in nearby Switzerland turned up in Pont-Saint-Esprit at the height of the outbreak: Dr. W. Arthur Stoll, a psychiatrist and the nephew of one of Sandoz's directors, and Albert Hofmann, the chemist who discovered LSD-25. Hofmann had stumbled across the hallucinogen while investigating the active molecules in ergot, minute amounts of which had been used by European midwives after the 1700s to heighten contractions and stop postpartum bleeding. Sandoz wanted to know whether the active ingredients in ergot had any significant medical applications. Hofmann and Stoll had come to Pont-Saint-Esprit, they claimed, because the townspeople's symptoms were much closer to LSD-25 than ergotism. At the time, however, no one had ever heard of LSD. Hofmann described it as potentially "appalling, frightful and shocking." He added that if LSD were ever used improperly, it might cause more destruction than the atomic bomb.

Both Hofmann and Stoll seemed certain that ergot in the flour had somehow broken down to LSD-25. Ergot alone, they reasoned, couldn't be the cause of the outbreak, because large amounts were needed to cause such widespread symptoms, and any bread tainted with such high concentrations would be discolored and obviously rancid. LSD, on the other hand, was odorless, colorless and thousands of times more potent. Both scientists agreed that mercury poisoning wasn't the answer either, because no kidney or liver damage had been found in any of the patients.

The events at Pont-Saint-Esprit would re-

THE CIA'S LSD ATTACK



Albert Hofmann produced the LSD used at Point-Saint-Esprit, and participated in the cover-up after the incident went awry.

Hofmann added that if LSD were ever used improperly, it might cause more destruction than the atomic bomb.

main a mystery for years to come. The victims formed an association to sue the cartel that controlled flour distribution in France in the 1950s, but this powerful group would be very successful in delaying, appealing and subverting their case. That left only the baker, Roche Briand, to sue, but he'd already lost his business (no one wanted his bread anymore) and had become an insurance salesman. Ten years later, none of the victims had received any compensation for their suffering, and there still wasn't a scientific consensus on the cause of the outbreak.

In 1968, John G. Fuller published a book titled *The Day of St. Anthony's Fire* (Macmillan). He focused exclusively on Briand's bread as the cause of the outbreak, dismissing other theories that the townspeople put forward (including the possibility of a chemical-warfare experiment). However, today many researchers will be inclined to look at Fuller as a person of interest in a possible cover-up. Immediately prior to his book on Pont-Saint-Esprit, Fuller had published an account of Barney and Betty Hill, the first recorded case of alien abduction, an incident that allegedly took place as the New Hampshire couple returned from a vacation trip to Canada in the early 1960s. Many researchers have come to the conclusion that thousands of Americans were secretly hypnotized and dosed with LSD in the 1950s and early '60s as part of the CIA's mind-control experi-

ments, and the Hills may have been two such victims. According to this scenario, the alien-abduction story was planted through hypnosis to mask the activities of government scientists. The current alien-abduction mythology may, in fact, be largely an invention of the national-security establishment to cover such experiments. (This might also explain why investigations into UFOs are so prevalent on the major cable channels, while investigations into real political events are so rare.)

There are several other connections that cast suspicion on Fuller's work, including his relationship with hypnotist Dr. Andrija Puharich (a.k.a. Henry K. Puharich), a parapsychology researcher most famous as the man who introduced spoon-bender Uri Geller to the world. Puharich has been linked to the CIA's MK-ULTRA mind-control program and was also involved in a series of bizarre séances with some of our country's wealthy elite. Another connection is Dr. Karlis Osis, founder of the Parapsychology Foundation in New York City, a research institute that worked closely with the Pentagon and the CIA over the years. In the late 1950s, Osis offered Fuller the opportunity to be the first journalist to try LSD and write about its effects. (Fuller turned down the offer.) While these connections certainly don't prove that Fuller was a witting accomplice of the CIA, they do suggest that he may have been a writer that the agency employed whenever a story needed containment.

In 2008, the events at Pont-Saint-Esprit were further investigated by Steven L. Kaplan, a professor of European history at Cornell University and an internationally recognized authority on French bread. Although it was written entirely in French, Kaplan's *Le Pain Maudit* was the subject of a feature in the *New York Times*. Kaplan went to Pont-Saint-Esprit after the book was published to give a talk about the incident. Although 30 chairs were set up for his appearance, over 400 people attended, demonstrating that the town has not yet forgotten the experience. According to the *Times*, "The government did its best to smooth over the incident and after many inquiries and court cases the affair was finally dropped in 1978. Explanations abound, none of which Kaplan finds satisfying. The most popular one, poisoning by a form of ergot fungus, he finds unconvincing. Mercury poisoning caused by Panogen, a cleansing agent used in wheat containers, was disproved although Kaplan says the government used it as a cover-up."

And there the matter would have rested, were it not for a researcher named H.P. Albarelli Jr., whose book *A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Secret Cold War Experiments* (TrineDay) finally broke the case wide open. Albarelli has spent the last 10 years investigating the death of Olson, a US Army biochemist who allegedly killed himself in New York City on the night of November 28, 1953. Initially, Olson's family was told that he had jumped through a closed window (wearing only his underpants) from his room on the 10th floor of the Hotel Statler. What the CIA didn't mention, however, was that Olson had been dosed with LSD

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without his knowledge six days earlier and had then been interrogated for 48 hours by mind-control experts in an attempt to determine how much of a security risk he posed. Olson, it seems, had grown weary of his job, which involved weaponizing chemical and biological agents for the CIA at Camp Detrick (now Fort Detrick) in Frederick, MD, and was planning to ditch his career and start over as a dentist. However, before he could gracefully exit his high-security position, Olson made a "terrible mistake"—one that would bring about his untimely death. Albarelli is convinced that fatal mistake was mentioning the Pont-Saint-Esprit incident to someone at Camp Detrick who wasn't cleared for the information, who then reported him to the camp commander as a potential security risk.

A Terrible Mistake will probably become the definitive account of what happened to Frank Olson. Over 800 pages long, it's a riveting exploration into the CIA's mind-control and chemical-weapons programs. When revelations about these programs threatened to emerge, then-CIA director Richard Helms made sure that most of those files were burned. But Helms was sacked by Richard Nixon during Watergate, and the new CIA chief, James Schlesinger, seemed determined to clean up the agency. William Colby, who took over the CIA after Schlesinger, was also convinced that the abuses needed to come out so that mistakes wouldn't be repeated.

A congressional commission controlled by then-Vice President Nelson Rockefeller was eventually created in 1975 to investigate allegations that the CIA was illegally operating inside the US. Colby was called to the White House by Rockefeller at the start of his investigation. According to Albarelli, Rockefeller lashed out at Colby during the meeting. "What the hell are you doing?" he said. "Why are you revealing all this stuff? Don't you realize this commission is a dog-and-pony show?" The commission would eventually reveal that a Camp Detrick employee had died as a result of being secretly dosed with LSD. Although the report took great pains not to mention Olson by name, it soon became clear just who this person was.

One of the primary reasons why the existence of these programs had to be concealed is that they revealed secret connections between the CIA and the Mafia. The key person in establishing this connection was a former OSS counterintelligence operative and narcotics agent named George Hunter White. White was the person who brokered the deal that set Lucky Luciano free and opened the doors for the French Connection to flood the US with heroin. White operated safe houses in New York and San Francisco where hundreds of people were dosed with LSD and then interrogated as White observed the sessions behind a two-way mirror. Low-level Mafia operatives were frequently the victims; meanwhile, upper-level Mafia members seemed to enjoy a very close relationship with White.

When Olson was brought to New York, White was supposed to take charge of his security, but he suddenly and unexpectedly had to depart for Los Angeles to attend his mother's funeral. In his place, White selected Pierre Lafitte, a CIA

THE CIA'S LSD ATTACK



Frank Olson weaponized the LSD used at Pont-Saint-Esprit and was murdered by the CIA shortly after attempting to resign. Olson was judged a security risk because he'd leaked information about Pont-Saint-Esprit.

'It should not be a difficult trick to sink a small container of [LSD] near the main outlet of water storage reservoirs, and 'excrete' a steady flow of the material over a period of many hours or days.'

operative who was also a member of the Corsican Mafia, to guard Olson and make sure that he didn't escape. Olson was probably moved to the Statler (now the Hotel Pennsylvania) because Lafitte had a cover job as a security guard there. When it came time to move Olson out of the hotel, Lafitte brought along another Corsican Mafia associate, François Spirito, to help him. Then things got out of hand.

"Lafitte and Spirito killed Frank Olson," Albarelli says. "Some people have misunderstood my book and think it was a planned assassination. In my view, it wasn't—I think the intent that night was to take Olson to Rockville, MD, where the CIA maintained an asylum for troubled people they didn't know what to do with. And it wouldn't have surprised anyone if Olson would have ended up hanging himself or dying from some drug overdose a few days later. But to plan an assassination where two guys throw someone through a closed window? It doesn't make any sense—especially considering the guy they murdered just spent the last 10 years figuring out how to kill people with a pinprick. It's just too dirty and too quick to have been planned."

The smoking gun that Albarelli obtained through the Freedom of Information Act was an undated White House memo sent to CIA director William Colby that mentioned "George H. White,

Pierre Lafitte, FNU Spirito and the Pont Saint Esprit incident (Olsojn)." (The "j" in Olson's name is undoubtedly a typo.) This White House memo helped Albarelli put all the pieces of the puzzle together for the first time. He was also able to establish two of the key players in the 1975 cover-up: Donald Rumsfeld, then chief of staff to President Gerald Ford, and Rumsfeld's top aide, Dick Cheney. On July 11, 1975, Cheney wrote a memo to Rumsfeld titled "The Olson Affair." The memo included statements that the president should make about Olson's death at an upcoming press conference. Although the US government eventually reached a settlement with Olson's family, Ford himself always maintained that the death was a suicide.

While working on this story, I came across an illuminating quote in Albarelli's book from one of the CIA's scientists, Dr. Henry K. Beecher, in which he discusses the use of LSD in doses "so small that one can calculate that the water supply of a large city could be disastrously and undetectably (until too late) contaminated with quantities apparently readily available It should not be a difficult trick to sink a small container of [LSD] near the main outlet of water storage reservoirs, and the container arranged to 'excrete' a steady flow of the material over a period of many hours or days."

At the time, some government scientists believed that LSD could be a major advance in "non-violent" war. They were certainly interested in exploring its effects on civilian populations, especially at high doses.

Although a number of other large-scale LSD attacks were in the planning stages, most seemed to have been suddenly dropped. A Detrick employee said, "There was an adverse effect [in France]...what would be called a 'black swan' reaction. However, the Special Operations Division did aerosol spraying through the exhaust pipe of an automobile driven around New York City (Operations Big City and Mad Hatter). "Although White's records of the experiments were destroyed by the CIA in 1973," says Albarelli, "We know he twice detonated aerosol devices filled with LSD, and also did at least one LSD experiment within a New York City subway car."

But why Pont-Saint-Esprit, out of all the towns and villages in the world? "I never asked that question about any of the CIA's LSD experiments," Albarelli says. However, it turns out that there were two US Army bases located near the town, and one of them may have housed Frank Olson and other members from the Special Operations Division at Camp Detrick for a few days during the experiment. Olson's presence in Europe at the time was conclusively established after Albarelli examined his passport.

Unfortunately, Albert Hofmann, the man who discovered LSD, has since passed away. It would have been interesting to quiz him about the incident, which is curiously absent from his memoirs. When I told someone who knew Hofmann about these revelations (and Hofmann's own possible role in the cover-up), he responded by saying: "Albert always said he wasn't any angel. I wonder if this incident is what he was talking about when he said that." ✨

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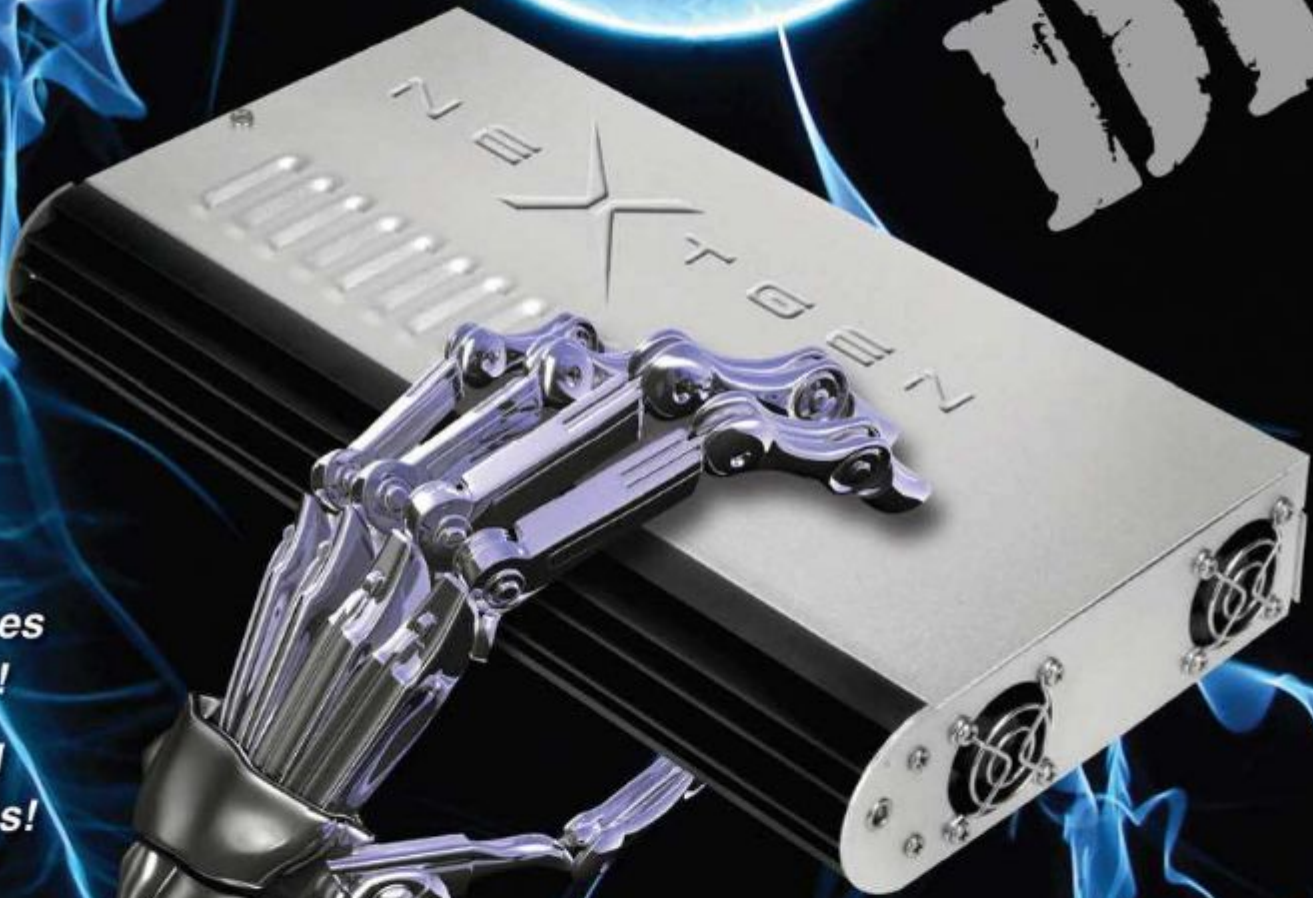


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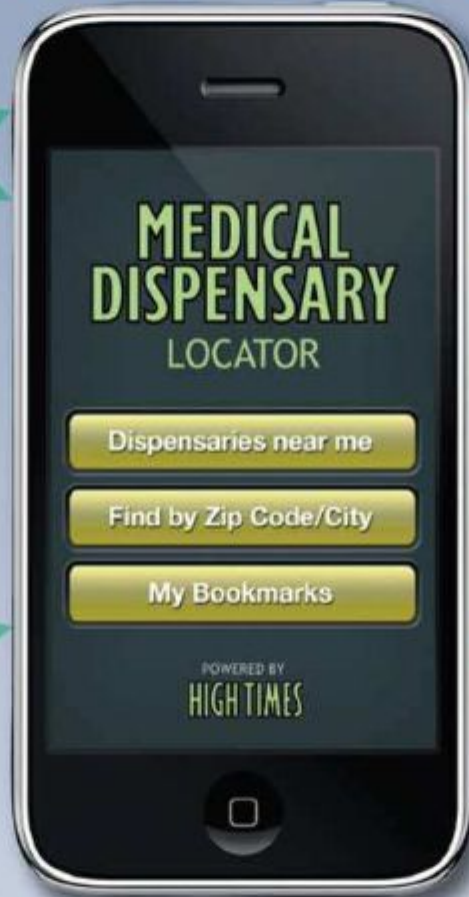
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Sen Dog, B-Real and Eric Bobo smoke out the house.

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CYPRESS HILLS

New Joint

Hip-hop's trichome triumvirate returns with *Rise Up*. By Justin Hampton • Photos by Steve Payne

Sen Dog is sprawled out on a couch watching ESPN on a flat-screen TV as we enter "The Temple," the multi-room recording studio that Cypress Hill share with Fear Factory. So far, he's the only guy here. "It's weird, because I'm usually the last to turn up to these things," he informs us. Covering the wall behind him are a series of platinum and gold LPs indicating the 20 million units that Cypress have sold worldwide during their two-decade-long career. And positioned prominently on a countertop near the entranceway as the rest of the band arrives are the foremost components to their identity and continued success: two turntables and a three-foot bong.

Here in the 21st century, b-boys and b-girls often forget the role that Cypress Hill have played in enshrining marijuana as a key element of the hip-hop lifestyle. Granted, pot has been a presence in hip-hop ever since the days of "cheeba cheeba, y'all," but Cypress took it a step further with their debut LP in 1991 by embracing weed as a part of their brand—as inseparable from the band's character as B-Real's nasal flow and DJ Muggs's forbidding, gothic production skills. Their second LP, *Black Sunday*, went double platinum and turned the band into international superstars; they also made forays into metal, salsa and reggae, further expanding their fan base. Now, as the first group signed by Snoop Dogg to the revived Priority Records, B-Real, Sen Dog and percussionist/live orchestrator Eric Bobo have resurfaced after a six-year hiatus with *Rise Up*, a diverse, sprawling sonic attack that features production and appearances by Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park), Jim Jonsin (Lil Wayne, J-Lo), Pete Rock, Tom Morello, Daron Malakian, Pitbull, Marc Anthony, and their DJ/producer emeritus, Muggs. As longtime veterans of the hip-hop and legalization scenes, Cypress Hill still have plenty of spit left in 'em, and as an old friend of the band, HIGH TIMES was privileged to get their special perspective on both. So let's do this:

Six years is a long time between albums. Was there any reason you made it now as opposed to earlier, or even a year later?

B-REAL: After our last record [*Till Death Do Us Part*], which was our last record with Sony Music, we decided to just take some time off from doing anything. Our whole career has been: put an album out, tour for a few years, come back, chill for a few months, and start recording again. At the end of that record, we didn't have an obligation to really go back and record an album at any particular time. So we all did our individual projects.

Throughout that time, we regrouped to figure out what we were gonna do when we brought the Cypress Hill camp back together to make the next record—because a lot of people thought we broke up. But really, we've been doing shows sporadically in Europe and here in the States and in between recording. So we've been active, but just not on a tour circuit. And we kept hush-hush about making the record because we weren't gonna go and get a record deal, then work on the record—we didn't want that pressure. We did it when we felt it as opposed to having to force it, and we felt really good about it in the end. So we said, "Okay,

it's time to really get serious and put another joint out there" ... because a rumor *can* come true if you sit on your ass too long.

With *Rise Up*, you've covered almost all facets of the Cypress Hill sound with the exception of reggae. Talk about that.

B-REAL: We didn't really hit the reggae too hard on this one, and I love reggae—but I felt like on this particular record, we needed to get a more raw sound on it; I didn't want it to be so laid-back. So that's sort of the direction that we went with all of the hip-hop stuff and the more aggressive songs with Tom Morello and Daron [Malakian]. We try to make everything a rollercoaster ride, but with this one, we tried to be more up-tempo. We focused on the more hip-hop and metal aspects of what Cypress Hill is, rather than the irie ... because we're always irie, man.

Is Muggs still a part of the group?

B-REAL: Yeah, he's still in the group.

It sounds like his role has changed, however.

B-REAL: Yeah, we still have been working a lot to-

gether. I've been on his Soul Assassins records; he and I are gonna work on something next year, one of his "versus" records. But the man's busy. He's constantly in the studio making beats, so he pretty much let us take reign over this album, and he took on a lesser role. And I feel good about the direction, because we stood within the realm of what Cypress Hill is, but we pushed it a little bit further.

Who is your audience nowadays? What works for them?

SEN DOG: In recent years, with the shows that we've done overseas, we've seen fans that now come to the gigs with their 10-, 11-year-old kids and have them right there in front of them, watching Cypress Hill get down. It's rare when you have a hip-hop band that has that kind of appeal. It's not one particular race, or two or three races—it's a universal thing. And that's one of the great things that I like about being in Cypress: You can touch down anywhere and, in any language, they know how to sing "I Wanna Get High" [laughs].

Obviously, marijuana can unite disparate groups of people, too. Your stance on marijuana hasn't changed, but a lot about marijuana has, especially here in California. How do you see the evolution of marijuana as an above-board industry?

B-REAL: The evolution has definitely been great. Obviously, people want more, but it's a step-by-step process: You can't have it all at once, because there's so many different things that you have to explore before you actually legalize it. Because it's going to affect many things, especially the economy—and that's the best part, because obviously it's in the shitter pretty much everywhere. So they definitely need to get it done. But California is the test model right now, because I think it's the closest state to legalization. Up in Northern California, they have a different kind of model when it comes to the collectives than we do here. [Los Angeles] is looking at their model because it's so much more advanced than what we have. So they're taking pieces of that model

Glass with class.



B-REAL: ‘We were asking [Cheech & Chong] if they would host the Cypress Hill Smoke-Out. Chong was like, “Yeah, fuck, for sure I’ll do it, on one condition: We get an ounce of B-Real’s greenest weed.”’

and applying it to a couple of the dispensaries here that have been running the longest—and if that works, you’ll see all of the existing medical dispensaries doing what they’re doing.

There are already 15 states that have medical-marijuana or decriminalization bills in place. I think if this new regulation works, you’ll see a lot of states roll over. It’ll turn from 15 to about 35 to 40, I think. The Southern states will be the last ones to roll over—but everywhere else, you’ll start seeing everybody implement those bills, because it generates capital for the [state], and the federal tax will get theirs. It’s always [a matter of] trying to convince the conservatives and the religious voters that it’s the right thing to do—and I think if the test models work, it will be more convincing. But we’re going in the right direction. I believe that California will be the first state to legalize marijuana, if it happens.

Here in LA, they’ve estimated the number of dispensaries at 1,000. The City Council wants to narrow it down to about 70.

B-REAL: I don’t think that’s gonna happen. They’re going to have to doctor in more collectives, because that would be ridiculous—some people would have to drive 50 to 100 miles to come get medicine. You don’t have to do that for

any other goddamn prescription drug; you can get them at a fucking Rite-Aid right down the street, or a CVS. They’re cutting the revenue stream in half anyway if they do that. They just don’t know how many collectives there actually are, and how much marijuana those collectives hold—so they’re trying to get control of that, so that they know nobody’s making money under the table.

It’s like prostitution in Nevada: You have it legal in some places, but that doesn’t stop a black market.

B-REAL: No, because people are paranoid: “I don’t wanna be on a list, man, fuck that!” [laughs] But you gotta get out of that way of thinking. Look, we’re born, we’ve got a Social Security number ... ERIC: You’re *already* on a list.

B-REAL: You’re on a list from the day you were brought in. *Fuck*.

On your YouTube page, B, you favorite some Alex Jones videos, and you also recommend William Cooper’s *Behold a Pale Horse*—both infamous conspiracy theorists. They’re known for inveighing against the system, yet we’re asking the same system to legalize marijuana. What do you see when you look at the power structure? Do you agree with Jones and Cooper about it?

B-REAL: A lot of it’s very possible; some of it’s



B-Real puts his mola where his mouth is.

true, some of it’s a little unbelievable. So you just kind of gotta weed through it yourself—no pun intended—and see if you can see any of this stuff that these guys are talking about. And I think people have seen some of these things that these people spoke about in their books and lectures. And I think that’s why the movement is so much bigger than what it used to be. Now, on YouTube, there are so many conspiracy videos on there for everything, man—and some of it’s far-fetched, but some of it is true. And I think that’s why they let so much of it be out there, so you can say,



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“Well, this is just so ridiculous, all this is bullshit” ... so they can mask themselves *under* all the bullshit.

So it's hard to tell what's real and what isn't nowadays. But I gotta tell you, with William Cooper and the things that Alex Jones has been talking about for the last 10, 15 years, those are all factual fucking things. They proved all their shit.

Have you ever thought about releasing any Cypress Hill-branded pot paraphernalia?
 B-REAL: Yeah, it's always been something in the back of our minds, to create things like that. Let's be realistic: Not only do we have the hip-hop and alternative following, but we've also got the pro-legalization culture that follows what we do because of what we talk about on the record. So, obviously, you wanna do something for them, like create a bong or whatever you can put out that people might like, so we're doing something with Roor Bongs. They've created two bongs for us. One is called Excalibur—it's actually our second version of Excalibur.

That eight-footer?

B-REAL: Well, this one's just over six feet, but they also made another one that's rare. I've rocked that one because the other one, it's in a travel case—you need a truck to bring it. But we're putting out these bongs with Roor close to the release of the album. And we're also releasing the Funky Feel Tip [joint filters]. So we're putting little things out there, but we've never really gone full-grown on it—because, really, at our base, we're about music. The music comes before anything else.

Tell me about the skits Cheech & Chong did for the LP.

B-REAL: We had Chong on the previous LP; we couldn't use half of the shit because I was laughing through the whole thing, so I fucked it all up. But getting them for this, we were lucky, because we were asking them if they would host the Cypress Hill Smoke-Out. Chong was like, “Yeah, fuck, for sure I'll do it, but on one condition: We get an ounce of B-Real's greenest weed.” [laughs] So I obliged him, gave them their shit, and they hosted the Smoke-Out and then came and did these drops for the album. They're really funny still, to this day—like, they just *ad-libbed* it. They were like, “Okay, let's talk about what we're gonna do real quick. Okay, yeah, this, that, that, okay, let's go.” And they knocked it out in minutes.



Lord of the strings.

B-REAL: ‘Not only do we have the hip-hop and alternative following, but we’ve also got the pro-legalization culture that follows what we do because of what we talk about on the record.’

Has it gotten easier to do Smoke-Outs over the years? I don't know if you had any resistance to it in the beginning.

B-REAL: When it really got off the ground, we had a little resistance from the authorities in the city we were throwing it in at that point, because they didn't really understand what we were doing; they thought we were just trying to throw it in their face. But when we brought it back just recently, they were so cool about it, you barely noticed they were there—they didn't really mess with anybody, because they understood what we trying to accomplish. And there was no violence of any sort. Not that many people were taken to jail. Certain people got their marijuana confiscated, but you don't wanna blow smoke in a cop's face. If he's letting you be in the spot smoking, don't rub it in his fucking face. Those were probably the people that went to jail, the people that were rubbing it in his face—or maybe they had more than herb, who knows? But it was a great event, and the authorities were pretty helpful on the whole shit. So I can't really say that when we relaunched it this year, anybody put up any resistance. There was one group that said they were gonna picket our event, but they never showed up [laughs]. So we didn't take it seriously.



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Have there been any pitfalls that have come with being so visibly aligned with pot? If so, how have you dealt with them?

SEN DOG: Well, the pitfalls of it are when you're taking your kids on vacation to Disney World, and some Texas lawman pulls you over and figures out who you are and tears your RV apart, swearing you've got weed on you. But that's minimal compared to the perks of it. There's a lot of people like me around the world, and everywhere I go, there's always somebody willing to have some good herb or some hash or a good spliff to share with you. And that's cool. We've had our points where we've gone into countries, and they swear it's hard getting into certain countries, or going out or whatever—but, for the most part, we've never gotten no major shit.

ERIC: We never really have disrespected ...

SEN DOG: Except for that time in France when they caught you fuckers with four pounds of shit on the bus. Remember that? When you had that little bag with like 10 balls of hash in it? Remember the dog found it on you?

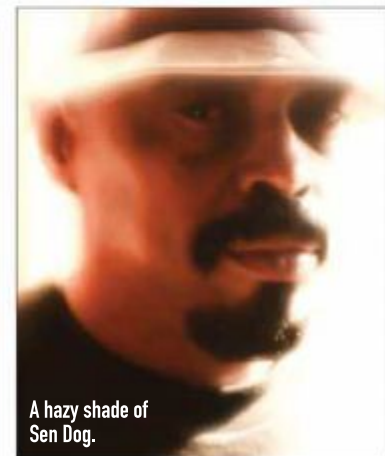
ERIC: Do we have to talk about that? [laughs]

SEN DOG: Except for *that* time.

ERIC: Except for that one time. But yeah, it's been crazy. We've gotten out of a lot of things, let's put it that way. I remember one time we were driving to the airport—and this was right after 9/11—and we were smoking out a van. And then there was a checkpoint, right? And we kind of totally forgot about it, and so it was: "Oh, whoa—*shit*, they're gonna check us!" The dude opened up, and all this smoke just came out. He looked in and he said, "'Oh, y'all ain't got nothing—y'all ain't got no *bombs* or anything. You all are good.'" [laughs]

B-REAL: We were bombed out!

ERIC: We just looked at him with a smile. We're like, "*Hee-ey!*"



A hazy shade of Sen Dog.

SEN DOG: 'I love when people think you're done and you know you're not, and you come back and slap them in the face once again.'

What keeps Cypress Hill going after two decades?

B-REAL: We still love doing this shit. We love to make music, we love performing it. We're blessed to be able to do what we do. And we've always been competitive, so we hear other shit out there and we're like, "Oh, we gotta make something that's gonna kill that." *That's* what keeps us going.

SEN DOG: I love when people think you're done and you know you're not, and you come back and slap them in the face once again. And to be able to have a band 20 years old—and our friendship goes back even further than that—that's some special shit that I don't feel like fucking stopping. And I'd like to accomplish some more goals with the group as well. Because there's only one Cypress Hill, and I'm in it. And it's a pretty kick-ass feeling to be part of a group that has the longevity that we have, the history ... *and* we smoke weed wherever we go. 🌿

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Big Problem #3: If you're using other, different, formulas ... even if ... you do manage to get a formula with nutrients which are good for you plants (which, as you've seen, most don't have) ... then ... you're probably still wasting most of those nutrients because those formulas don't have carrier molecules to drive those nutrients straight into your plants faster and more efficiently. This is actually a big problem because most of your nutrients are not getting into our plants which wastes your money ... and ... this causes longer crop cycles which wastes your time. But it doesn't need to be this way ...

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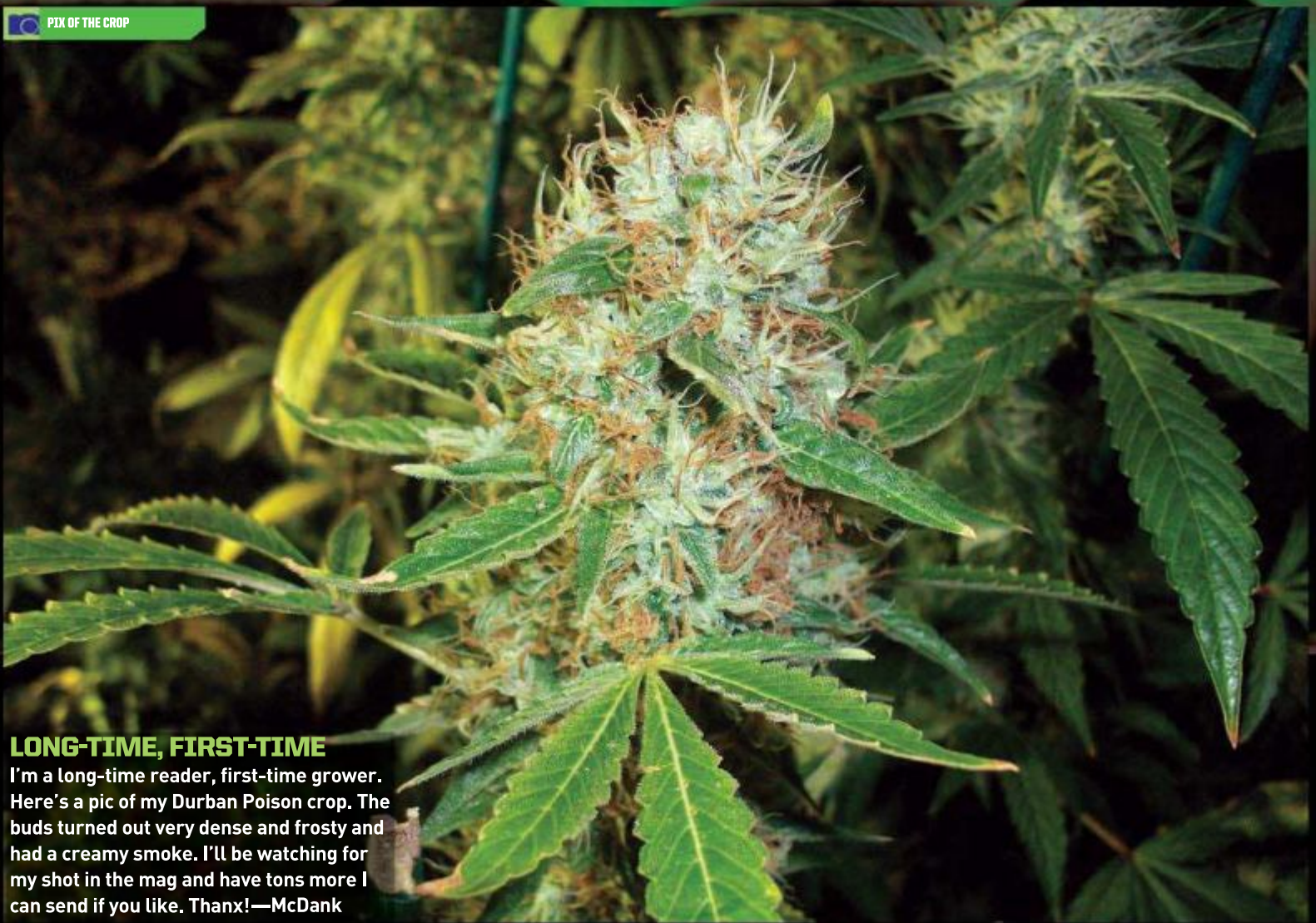
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LONG-TIME, FIRST-TIME

I'm a long-time reader, first-time grower. Here's a pic of my Durban Poison crop. The buds turned out very dense and frosty and had a creamy smoke. I'll be watching for my shot in the mag and have tons more I can send if you like. Thanx!—McDank



BLUE RHINO (above)

I hope you like my Blue Rhino close-up. Bronco Rob says it's always 420!—BR

BIG BEAR BUDZ (left)

Growing the American Dream: six Bubba Kush plants in beautiful SoCal. They're only two months old and six feet tall already! Growing organic using fish emulsion, kelp meal, Superthrive, Budweiser, Coca Cola and molasses.—The Greenscotsman and Pops

Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nugs. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to maibag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.

SENSI BLOOM

The Bodybuilding Secret That Gives Your Plants Bigger, More Potent Buds!

In the sport of bodybuilding, athletes supplement with amino acids to help fuel muscle growth because they're the essential "building blocks" on which protein growth is based.

But your plants can benefit from the addition of amino acids too! That's why the 4th ingredient in this one of a kind 2-part base nutrient is amino acids. These amino acids are the building blocks of proteins that fuel metabolic pathways for enhanced floral and essential oil production.

Ingredient #5 is, of course, the actual plant-maximizing nutrients themselves. But, you should know ...

How To Get The Optimal Amounts of Micro and Macro Nutrients For a Bigger Yield

To ensure your plants get the most out of the nutrients you're feeding them, the scientists rely on chelation to enhance absorption. In fact, this 5-in-1 formula contains the optimum number of chelated macronutrients that your plants need for faster growth and bigger blooms.

In addition, the following micronutrients are 100% chelated: iron, zinc, manganese, molybdenum, copper, boron and cobalt ... which of course means ... your plants more easily absorb and use these nutrients—giving you bigger buds and more yield from the same bloom time!

How This New Plant Growing Technology Maximizes Your Bloom Phase So You Get A Huge Harvest You Can Be Proud Of

This team of respected scientists and their graduate assistants worked around the clock to ensure this nutrient worked unlike any other:

- You get earlier flowering with more budding sites ...
- You get a shorter internode length and more buds per stem ...
- You get thicker diameter flowers with better floral structure because the powerful, pure ingredients feed your plants more effectively ...
- You get more time in peak bloom because your plants flower earlier giving you more weight, more aroma, more color and more potency ...

If they had stopped there, you would still have seen an impressive increase in your total yield.

However, in developing this advanced 2-part bloom fertilizer – Sensibloom — this team of scientists went the extra mile!

The Ideal Ratios, Already Dialed In For You ...

It's a known fact that the further you move away from feeding your plants their ideal nutrient ratios, potency and yield rapidly deteriorate.

You see, your plants use a small amount of phosphorus during flowering, but what they really love to use is nitrogen and potassium. The scientists at Advanced Nutrients discovered this only after taking thousands of weekly tissue samples from buds, stems, leaves and roots of many varieties using gas chromatography analysis throughout all phases of plant growth.

Other nutrient companies are over-using phosphorus in hydroponic bloom fertilizers. And to compound problems, they use high levels of ingredients like mono ammonium phosphate (MAP) or diammonium phosphate (DAP). These substances are what give some plants their harsh taste.

But the good news is: with Sensibloom you're guaranteed to have the correct nutrient ratios for your plants!

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Here's the story: recently, a respected team of over a dozen plant scientists and graduate assistants discovered, after 109 man-years of research, how to combine 5 different plant improving formulas into one breakthrough 2-part bloom base nutrient.

What's more: you'll never have to worry about pH issues again because these scientists have completely eliminated the need for pH-PPM metering or even adjusting pH levels with their patented pH-Perfect™ Technology.

All this in effect means it is now possible for even the most inexperienced hydroponics rookie to start experiencing "pro level" juicy yields and buds!

The "Secret" 5 Part Plant Maximizing Formula and How Science Ensures Get You Bigger, Juicier Buds From Your Plants Because of It!

Ingredient #1 ensures that the nutrients in this formulation get into your plants as quickly as possible. It's an organic surfactant called Wet Betty and it does something every plant grower wants ...

... Surfactants are wetting agents that lower the surface tension of a liquid (in this case, nutrient-rich water) allowing easier spreading and uptake of nutrients into your plants. Which of course means your plants will get the organic nutrients they crave faster and more efficiently than ever before — which greatly increases your plant's bloom yield.

Ingredients #2 and #3 are humic and fulvic acids. These organic acids give your plants an edge when it comes to growing quicker, stronger, and bigger ... with less stress ... than with any other formulation. Here's how .

The humic provides natural carrier compounds that transport nutrients and vitamins into plants more efficiently, so your plants grow faster and have stronger cellular processes. In addition, the fulvic here gives you quicker nutrient absorption, nutrient transport, and more cellular metabolism. Together, they work synergistically to maximize the time your plants spend in bloom.

And ingredient #4 completes the package because it's ...

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our mini-section devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your *Cannabis Clinic!*

Cannabis Deficiency?

As humorous as it may sound, cannabis *deficiency* in humans may actually be a serious medical condition, according to a growing body of scientific evidence that points toward such a possibility.

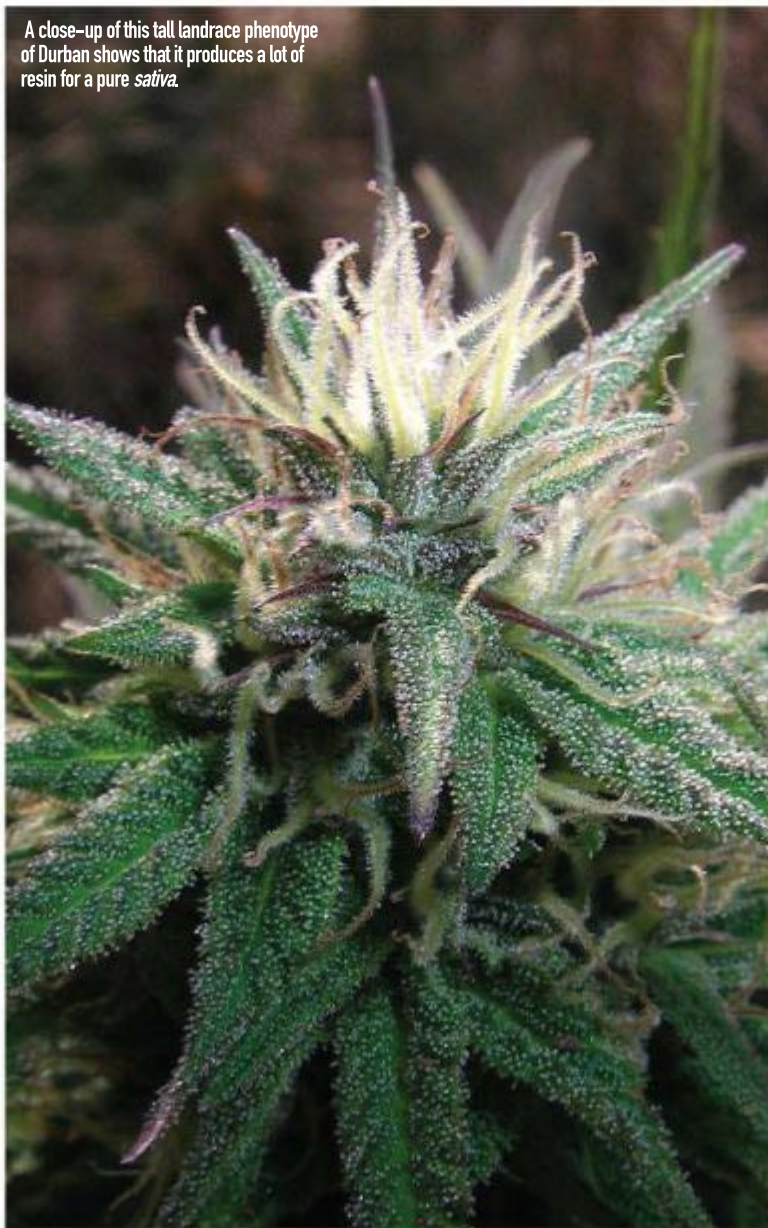
For over 20 years, doctors and scientists have known about receptors in the brain that can accommodate the more than 50 active cannabinoids in marijuana. These cannabinoids bind to particular neurological sites, almost as though the brain was specifically designed to utilize this plant.

Scientists also know that when receptors exist in the brain for a particular type of compound, that compound will be produced in the body. This is true of many important agents that work to transmit brain messages of all types. So a hunt began to find such a compound and to answer such questions as “Did nature toss cannabinoid receptors into the brain by random chance?” and “Are cannabinoid receptors part of an intelligent design for deriving maximum benefit from cannabis?”

To that end, in 1992, researchers in Israel isolated the cannabinoid anandamide in the human brain. Unlike THC, the main psychoactive compound in marijuana, anandamide is an endocannabinoid (i.e., manufactured in the brain); the name itself is derived from the ancient Sanskrit word *ananda*, which means “bliss.” In the brain, anandamide functions as a bliss molecule, enhancing greater well-being and emotional satisfaction. It also plays a role in proper appetite and memory, as well as in mitigating inflammation and pain.

Interestingly, cannabis also affects these same functions. Cannabis has been used successfully to treat such ailments as migraines, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syn-

A close-up of this tall landrace phenotype of Durban shows that it produces a lot of resin for a pure *sativa*.



MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH

Durban

Once again highlighting the medical benefits of *sativas*, this month’s medicinal strain comes to us straight out of South Africa and is a dark, pure landrace *sativa*: Durban. Also known as Durban’s Poison, this plant loves the outdoors and lots of sunlight. She often grows dark green leaves with hues of brown, amber and even purple if the conditions get cold enough.

A second hybrid version called Early Durban was also put out by the Flying Dutchmen Seed Company in Amsterdam and exhibits a whiter color with less hairs and more resin. This hybrid was likely bred with an *indica*, making its medicinal tilt slightly different than the pure Durban.

In terms of its medicinal effects, the pure Durban possesses a strong yet functional high that is very cerebral. It’s often used by patients to treat high anxiety, depression and muscle spasms, or as an appetite stimulant for patients undergoing cancer treatments such as chemotherapy.

drome and glaucoma, just to name a few. So should cannabis be considered a medical replacement in cases of deficient anandamide?

Some people think so, including Dr. Ethan Russo, who believes that endocannabinoid deficiency might actually be a significant cause of the types of health problems listed

above. His paper “Clinical Cannabinoid Deficiency,” published in the journal *Neuroendocrinology Letters* in 2004, delved deeply into the various ways that cannabinoids function in the body and proposed that a deficiency in these compounds can lead to a broad range of diseases. Since the publication of that paper, a num-

ber of studies have further confirmed the effectiveness of cannabis for many health disorders.

The concept of clinical cannabinoid deficiency is a new idea that not only lends itself to current medical applications but also to a broader range of mood disorders and general issues of well-being. As state and local laws continue to evolve and change in favor of greater tolerance, perhaps cannabis will find its proper place in the home medicine chest right next to the aspirin!



HIGH TIMES Launches Medical-Marijuana App for iPhone

Introducing CANNEX, the HIGH TIMES medical-marijuana locator application for iPhones and patients everywhere! Need to find a dispensary near you? Want to know which club has your favorite strains? Want to do some comparison shopping *before* you leave your house? This app has everything you could ever want and more!

There has not been and likely never will be a more definitive medical-marijuana application than this one from the good folks at HIGH TIMES. CANNEX aims to serve medical patients by providing accurate and comprehensive information so that those in need of treatment can get the service they deserve. CANNEX provides complete dispensary listings, reviews, and in-depth menu information and prices—updated in real time by the dispensaries themselves!

The CANNEX app is available now for download through the iTunes App Store. For more information, visit hightimes.com/cannex. Check it out and let us know what you think! ✨

Got medical questions? Pass ‘em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.

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COUNTER CATERING

Glycerin-based treats deliver the buds without the butter. By Ashley Boudreaux

“Dedication to Medication”—that’s the motto over at Counter Catering, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit medical-marijuana collective. Although they only started producing their “I Can’t Believe It’s Pot Butter” edibles and Chronic Tonic ganja drinks in 2009, their patient load has already exploded, doubling in the first quarter of 2010 alone. They’ve built a good reputation around a diverse yet consistently tasty product line and a strict adherence to food-safety protocols.

Anticipating the inevitable government regulations on medical-cannabis food in California, the folks at Counter Catering plan to be ahead of the curve long before the hammer comes down.

“Everything is made in a licensed kitchen—licensed by the Los Angeles County Health Department—and handled by licensed food handlers and packaged in FDA-approved packaging,” explains Adam, a board member of the Counter Catering collective. He expresses genuine concern over the notion of people mass-producing medical edibles in their homes without either training or oversight. All of the dispensaries that the collective serves have a copy of its commercial-kitchen license.

“There are people who do it right and there are people who do it wrong, just like in any other industry,” Adam states emphatically. “There are a lot of collectives out there that seek a huge profit margin, and that’s the antithesis of where we should be heading. People need medicine, and they deserve to have it at a fair price—and they deserve to have edibles that won’t make them sick.”

Counter Catering strives to master the art of titration while eliminating the taste of marijuana in their products. And while they haven’t fully eradicated the ganja flavor yet (hey, I like that flavor), they have managed to successfully



Take the glycerin challenge.

downplay it. Adam believes that the ubiquitous use of trim can negatively affect the taste of ganja food, so Counter Catering opts to use bud shake instead, filtering their butter or kosher glycerin multiple times before adding it to their goodies.

Adam says that the key to ganja cooking is to go long, slow and at low temperatures. He explains that while cannabis butter requires digestion, the glycerin in Counter Catering’s ganja drinks is rapidly

absorbed, providing a quick, light buzz—a head lift without the couchlock. Although tinctures can also be made with alcohol or oil, the collective prefers to use glycerin for several reasons. For one thing, the distribution of an alcohol tincture requires an alcohol permit in California. For another, “with glycerin, there’s zero fat, and it doesn’t raise blood-sugar levels, so it’s diabetic-friendly. And glycerin is water-soluble, whereas oil is not.

“Our Lazy Lemonade is always a *sativa*,” Adam continues. “We’ve found that with the glycerin-based drinks, it makes a difference, because it’s a lighter medication—whereas when you eat a brownie, you’re making a commitment for the night.” He affirms that people can easily work with food-grade glycerin in their own kitchen at home. “It’s a steeping process similar to butter—you make it the same way you’d make butter, and the patient would have to find the ratio that works for them.” Adam admits that while they have their own “golden ratio” at Counter Catering, “and things that work perfectly,” their products might not work for everyone, since every patient doses differently. So they pay attention to feedback and hope for the best, working many hours each day with one goal in mind: “We’re committed to things being properly made so people can be properly medicated.” ✨

CANNABIS GLYCERITE

Although Counter Catering understandably wouldn’t share their proprietary recipes or “golden ratio” with me, I believe the following recipe for a basic glycerite is a good place to start. Despite the ubiquitous postings on the Internet regarding methodology, I do NOT think that simply steeping cannabis in glycerin is optimal. I believe that heat is also important, for both decarboxylation and general-extraction purposes. USP food-grade glycerin (also spelled “glycerine”) is available online from distributors like Starwest Botanicals, the Essential Oil Company and More Than Alive.

¼ oz high-quality ganja shake
5 oz USP food-grade glycerin
3 oz water

Simmer at a very low temperature (shoot for 180°F) for two and half hours. Cool until it can be handled. Wear latex gloves. Strain, then squeeze the ganja glycerite well through unbleached cheesecloth (ideally—I’ve heard that pantyhose and coffee filters also work, but cheesecloth is perfect). This makes seven to 14 servings, depending on the desired dose. Use it instead of sugar in your favorite drink, but keep in mind that glycerin is sweeter, so be prepared to experiment.

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HIGH HURDLES

Obstacles still hinder marijuana-law reformers in the battle for cannabis freedom.

Despite the remarkable strides made over the last decade toward cannabis legalization in the United States, some *major* challenges remain, and much hard work will be required before cannabis consumers achieve parity with our Dionysian brethren who responsibly imbibe (and pay taxes on) alcohol. And so, from the trenches of the cannabis-law reform movement (and in no specific order of importance), here are the top five challenges that NORML sees ahead for total cannabis legalization in the next five years.



1) If the Democrats lose control of Congress in 2010, and/or President Obama loses to a social conservative in 2012, trouble will likely follow as, historically speaking, Democrats support cannabis-law reform far more than Republicans.

2) Save for NORML, organizations working for cannabis-law reform need to better diversify their funding base and not become reliant on non-stakeholder, hyper-partisan, elite billionaires for financial support. When an organization's (or movement's) funding basically comes from a billionaire who is also spending tens of millions annually trying to unseat a political party and its candidates, the side being opposed tends to see the organization as simply another partisan player, and so they are instinctively less inclined to support its cause—in this case, much-needed cannabis-law reforms.

Also, without a diverse funding base, organizations dependent on a single bankroller are subject to the whims and demands of often-mercurial individuals. And if scandal strikes the organization, the funder may withdraw his or her philanthropy. For example, the employee scandal at the Marijuana Policy Project this January led to cuts in a grants program that left numerous important and worthy MPP-dependent

organizations and projects in jeopardy.

3) Amazingly, whether it's a concerted strategy of the prohibitionists or a true indicator that the public no longer supports the untenable status quo of cannabis prohibition, it's becoming increasingly difficult to identify opponents of marijuana-law reform to publicly debate. This "high-class problem" frustrates reformers on two levels, since both media outlets and university settings often require a debate format when it comes to airing views on supposedly controversial public-policy topics.

4) The good news is that more Americans than ever before support ending prohibition laws and finally legalizing cannabis, with most polls showing that 45 percent of citizens now support such a policy. The challenge will be chipping away at the 55 percent of the population that still supports prohibition. Polling from NORML indicates that the primary groups of citizens in opposition to cannabis-law reform self-identify as Republicans, Christians (notably "New Born," Baptist and Methodist), Hispanics, Asian-Americans, the poorly educated and low-wage earners.

5) Sadly, less than 1 percent of cannabis consumers actively support their own liberation, often due to fears of the criminal-justice system, making political organizing a distinct challenge for groups like NORML. If the stakeholders for cannabis-law reform matched the level of involvement of past social-justice movements, such as women's suffrage, civil rights, and gay/lesbian equality, cannabis prohibition would come to a screeching halt almost overnight.

Always remember that cannabis freedom is possible for those willing to work for it.— **Allen St. Pierre**, Executive Director of NORML. Contact NORML at norml.org or call 888-67-NORML.

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch, I'm getting the "marijuana leads to crime" rant again. Help me out!

Ian T.

Hi Ian,
A study in Norway followed the same group of people for 14 years, from ages 13 to 27. Although the cannabis users in the group were busted more often than other folks, it was only for crimes like cannabis possession. In other words, if cannabis weren't illegal in the first place, cannabis users would be as law-abiding as anyone else.

This is going to sound weird. My girlfriend and I are older, and we've already been married to other people before. She says she wants to get remarried all the time—except when she gets high. What's that about?

Ron P.

Hi Ron,
Wow! Some research on women in their twenties has shown that those who get high are less obsessed with getting married than those who don't; this is really just a reflection of conservative social attitudes, though. In your case, I'd ask if there's some other way to provide what she wants. Many people think that bells will ring and birds will sing once they're married, but her first marriage probably showed her what a lie that is. Perhaps a little meditation with the plant makes her realize that things are good right now, even without a ring on her finger.

I have a friend with a vaporizer, and I swear it doesn't do anything different from smoking a joint—it still makes smoke that gets people coughing.

DJJ

Hi DJJ,
Your friend may have the heat turned up too high. New data out of the Netherlands confirm that vaporizers provide a better ratio of cannabinoids to junk (read: potential respiratory irritants) than smoking. But if your pal is cranking the heat, that's just smoke coming out.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He's the author of *Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

NORML'S OWN PAUL ARMENTANO

Paul Armentano serves as NORML's deputy director and contributes our compelling analyses of medical cannabis and marijuana-law reform. His annually updated paper, "Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis and Cannabinoids," is a scientific defense of medical marijuana. His "Real World Ramifications of Cannabis Legalization and Decriminalization" examines the results of marijuana-law reform worldwide, while "Breathe, Push, Puff? Pot Use and Pregnancy: A Review of the Literature" allayed the fears of many expectant mothers and "Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review" tackled a controversial subject with reason and calm. He is also the co-author of the popular polemic *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?*

In addition to his scholarly works, Armentano finds time to submit testimony and sometimes appear personally before state legislatures considering marijuana-law reform. He's also frequently sought as an expert witness in court, particularly on the topic of drug testing. Armentano's reviews and analyses of the scientific data have led to reduced sentences and even acquittals for many cannabis defendants, including one Los Angeles woman on probation who'd failed nine consecutive urine tests for marijuana metabolites. Armentano testified that frequent cannabis users can test positive for metabolites weeks after stopping use and can even fail a urinalysis after successfully passing several of them due to the fluctuating rate at which THC-COOH is flushed from the system.

Armentano lives in the Bay Area of California with his wife and baby, and he can also be found lecturing as a member of the faculty at the famous Oaksterdam University in Oakland.



Paul Armentano

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Let It Snow

Even Mother Nature can't stop the perfect SSDP mid-Atlantic conference.

By Nathan Johns and Jason Matthys

With over a foot of snow in the forecast, we weren't sure what to expect, but in January of this year, four SSDP members from Northern Virginia Community College headed south to Richmond to attend the regional SSDP event that we had been planning for months.

Upon arrival, we stopped to pick up a few pizzas for the potluck dinner that we had planned for the night before the event. Arriving at the party, we were immediately greeted by the welcoming faces of some of the best people in the world: fellow SSDP members from four states in the mid-Atlantic region. We found ourselves immersed in the positivity of the get-together, and while we were having such a great time, the looming threat of a massive snowstorm vanished from our minds. Then the various SSDP members—from West Virginia University, the College of William and Mary, and Virginia Commonwealth University, in addition to our contingent from NVCC—headed to the hotel. It was getting late, and the first flakes were beginning to fall.

In the morning, we woke up to a lovely continental breakfast and over a foot of snow on the ground. The school that was supposed to host our conference was closed, plus chapter members from four additional colleges weren't coming anymore—and all of our scheduled speakers were snowed in. Making the best of a bad situation, we asked the front desk if they had a meeting space that we could use, and they kindly let us have their impressive official conference room. The 15 of us who had been able to make it to the hotel before the storm then convened the first-ever SSDP mid-Atlantic strategy summit.

Popping open a Mac, we set up our first event of the day, a video chat with Aaron Houston of the Marijuana Policy Project. Aaron recommended the use of some unconventional lobbying techniques, such as waiting in a statehouse cafeteria to catch representatives that you'd like to speak with (but never interrupt a representative already in conversation with another person, he added, and be assertive yet courteous when speaking with them).

Next, we watched the film *Ecstasy Rising* and afterwards had another video chat session, this time with Rick Doblin, the executive director of MAPS (the Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies), who was interviewed in the film. Doblin informed us of the current—and fascinating—research going on regarding the use of Ecstasy (MDMA) in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which may lead to MDMA becoming an FDA-approved medicine.

Then, thanks to SSDP's connections with Flex Your Rights, we watched an exclusive pre-release screening of the film *10 Rules for Dealing with Police*. It was filled with tons of useful information for asserting your rights when the cops



Nathan (left) and Jason at the SSDP mid-Atlantic summit.

The crazy thing was, even with the blizzard, we still managed to have an amazing conference.

try to go beyond their proper bounds. One of the most important of the 10 rules is: If the police are questioning you, be polite but firm in saying, "I do not consent to searches."

The next morning, we all went outside to dig our cars out. After making angels and a huge "SSDP" in the snow, we checked out of our rooms and met up for a last lunch before our departure. Then we walked back to our cars, said our goodbyes and parted ways.

The crazy thing was that, despite the blizzard (and with more than half the attendees unable to make it), we still managed to have an amazing conference. Not only "amazing"—I would even say "perfect." We rose above a very significant obstacle and, instead of scattering and falling apart, became a tight-knit group of students with a common passion who managed to improvise and pull off an extremely productive event. We blended together and got along tremendously, without a single disturbance. It was truly a great experience, and it spoke volumes to me about what this organization is all about: good people fighting for a good cause. We refuse to let anything—including the occasional blizzard—get in the way of our dedication to ending the War on Drugs. ✨

Nathan Johns is freshman at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). Jason Matthys is a senior and the founder and president of NVCC SSDP.

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David C. Holland, P.C.
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Law Office of Neal Wiesner
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Federal/State Criminal Defense, OH/MI

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M. Michael Arnett

Arnett Law Firm
3133 N.W. 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Tel: (405) 767-0522
Fax: (405) 767-0529
email: mickearnett1@juno.com

Chad Moody

217 N Harvey Street, Ste. 409
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TEXAS

Johnathan Ball, Attorney-at-Law

1115 Cardinal Ave.
McAllen, Texas 78504
(956) 501-6565 Phone
john@johnballattorney.com
www.mcallendruglawyer.com

Jeff Blackburn

718 W 16th
Amarillo, TX 79101
Phone: 806-371-8333
Fax: 806-350-7716
blackburn@dwtxinnocence.org

Greg Gladden

3017 Houston Ave.
Houston, TX 77009-6734
713-880-0333
gladden@airmail.net

Gerald Goldstein

2900 Tower Life Bldg.
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INDOOR ORGANIC PEST CONTROL

PART 1: PREVENTATIVE MEASURES.
STORY BY HUGH JIËLDER



Ladybug beetles (*Hippodamia convergens*) can actually help prevent problems by eating harmful pot pests.




Hand held inspection of this bud reveals bud rot, or *botrytis*, within the flower.



Ripening resin is attractive to more than just humans.

Like anything else that can't be seen by the unaided eye, controlling pests is tricky business. Fully grasping the underlying biology of pest control can take years of study. Listening to the experiences of other growers can be helpful, but growrooms differ greatly, and people tend to fill in what they can't see with guesses posing as facts. Complicating the flow of information, the corporations selling pest-control chemicals are occasionally mindful of lawsuits. The growers' quest for good information on this subject can be a truly humbling experience that tests our intellectual abilities to judge information, follow directions and learn from experience.

In the first installment of this two-part series, we're going to introduce you to some known scientific facts on how plants defend themselves against pests, then discuss the most fundamental techniques for *avoiding* pest problems in the first place. In our second installment, we'll go over some particularly effective nontoxic techniques for containing or eradicating pests once they crash your party.



Much to a breeder's dismay, this sucker knows exactly what it wants going directly for a mature seed ovule.

THINKING LIKE A PLANT

To master the concept of pest control, we must first shrink ourselves and enter the miniscule world of bugs and plants. In a general sense, pests are after the sugars that your plant produces. A cannabis plant's goal, on the other hand, is to seed at least one single flower before it succumbs to winter. The grower's goal is to trick the female cannabis plants into thinking they're about to reproduce without ever providing them with the male pollen necessary to do so. Tricks aside, the plant and its caretaker share a common symbiotic goal: Resist the pests that will limit the plant's ability to generate flowers. The grower should not expect to be a mere spectator in this process. By studying how plants already tend to fight off pests, he or she can assist and fortify the plants' pre-existing defenses.

A typical plant is covered in millions of bacteria per square inch. Once a plant is damaged or weakened, these microorganisms will compete for the plant's sugars. Clearly, the plant's first line of defense is its skin. Plant skin is really like a

waxy-scale armor that covers both leaves and stems. Different plant strains differ in the waxes they exude to protect themselves from pests. This wax also prevents the plant from becoming too wet or dry, and even directs condensation to the advancing root tips. The plant moves gases and water vapor through this armor.

This is why growers are required to use surfactants (soaps and detergents) when applying pest-control chemicals onto plant leaves. The surfactant breaks up water droplets into an extremely thin layer, which the plant can take its time in absorbing. Without the surfactant, chemicals will often just roll off the plant like water off a windshield. It would appear that nature hasn't much use for foliar sprays on plants. But nature plays a numbers game, while the indoor grower's garden must work every time.

Plants are also covered in little hairs, whose purpose differs with each type of plant. When growers spray their cannabis plants with fluid, any beads that become suspended above the leaf can act as a miniature magnifying glass and burn the

leaf if exposed to intense light. Strong light may also induce the plant to take in the chemicals too quickly, which can have a similar result. For these reasons, pest control is always performed in the absence of intense grow lights, and plants are generally permitted a number of hours to absorb the chemicals according to their own preferred schedule.

The application of any pesticide onto a plant's leaves will disrupt its waxy armor, and it can take as long as three weeks for the plant to regenerate it. But although, at this point, it may sound counter-productive to spray anything at all on your plants, the absence of a balanced ecosystem in an artificial indoor-grow environment arguably leaves the cannabis grower with little alternative. What this means, however, is that an ineffective pest-control spray will do more harm than good. It also means that indoor growers will want to supplement *all* of their plant feed with a silicon additive in order to strengthen their plants' cell walls. It's worth noting that young cuttings, which have yet to grow a waxy layer, can be damaged by the application of *any* chemical other than water to their leaves.

Plants do not have immune systems like humans. Healthy plants will respond to any chink in their armor with *exudates*—a fluid that's transported by the circulatory system to problem areas. Plant exudates can seal up a wound much like a human blood clot. Some plants have evolved exudates that possess very special pest-control properties, and these chemicals can even be extracted from one plant for the purpose of introducing them into others via the roots or leaves. Neem oil and its extracted form, Azatrol, are actually neem-tree exudates. These differences in waxy-scale armor and exudates tend to explain why various kinds of plants have different bugs that enjoy eating them.

DISINFECTANTS & ENZYMATIC CLEANERS

When it comes to the tiny world of bacteria and fungi, biologists often talk about disinfectants in terms of electricity. For example, chlorine works by grabbing electrons from proteins and enzymes, which in turn interferes with the flow of electricity through membranes that many microorganisms require to survive. As growers, we need not concern ourselves with such granular details. Cannabis growers can be incredibly effective at what they do without fully comprehending the underlying science of *everything* they do. Often, it's enough to be fluent only in what works and how to best use it.

Disinfectants are a great example. When it comes to cleaning grow gear, some of the best chemicals are those that people are already quite familiar with: bleach, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol and flame. Fire can be useful for sterilizing small metal instruments like pruning scissors, but it's useless for cleaning the plastics in most of the grow gear that growers typically use. Isopropyl alcohol kills both fungi and bacteria, but it's similar to the common disinfectant, Lysol, in that it will not destroy fungal spores. Isopropyl alcohol is typically used only to sterilize small instruments.

A 10:1 bleach-to-water solution is an excellent and inexpensive disinfectant for cleaning a grow-



Growers need to be diligent in inspecting gardens as pests can come in a variety of camouflage.



Slugs and snails leave web-like holes in leaves and will devastate any vegetation, even roots!



Check leaf undersides for whiteflies that will inhibit chlorophyll production and plant growth.

room's surfaces, but even miniscule amounts of residue can destroy beneficial microbes if it's used on reservoirs, tubing or grow pots. Thus, surfaces that come into contact with plants, nutrients or beneficial microbes should instead be sterilized between grow cycles with a solution of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2).

H_2O_2 (specifically, a 35% solution) should be mixed into water at a ratio of 100 (water) to 1 (H_2O_2). Be sure to check the label and make sure that it's the 35% solution, as hydrogen peroxide comes in many different concentrations; the more common 3% solution sold in convenience stores will require a 10:1 ratio. Not only does hydrogen peroxide kill both fungi and bacteria, but it does so without leaving any toxic residue; it breaks down into water and oxygen very quickly when exposed to light, so plants love the stuff. Growers can purchase 35% hydrogen peroxide in bulk online—but be careful when using it, since it can burn both skin and plant tissue at this concentration.

All of these disinfectants will kill beneficial microorganisms along with the bad ones if introduced into your plants' root zone. Therefore, when building an artificial ecology to support root functions with compost tea or a soil filled with helpful living organisms, growers should look elsewhere when it comes to "cleaning" their media mid-cycle. Enzymatic cleaners like Hygrozyme, Canazym and SensiZym can be added to nutrient mixes because they don't actually kill anything; instead, they facilitate the breakdown of dead organic matter (like dead roots), which can help prevent rot and disease. (Enzymatic cleaners were originally developed for hospitals to clean surgical operating equipment.) However, plant pests can also use this material for food to gain strength and stage an attack, so be careful using these products if you have known or suspected pests around, such as insects.

Unlike its competitors, the manufacturer of Hygrozyme claims that its product can even be added to a hydrogen-peroxide solution at a ratio of 1% to 2%. Not only might this improve the cleaning of gear between cycles, but it also means that the two can be used together in a recirculating grow system.

PEST-CONTROL PROTOCOL

Experienced growers who value their time always keep their growrooms clean. That's because they know from experience that pest problems always start out small and invisible just before they become out-of-control and devastating—and most problems are already serious by the time you notice them in a room with many plants. When it comes to dealing with these virtually invisible pests, the grower's best weapon is a strict adherence to cleanliness and an anti-pest protocol designed to prevent the most serious threats administered on a regular schedule.

Rule no. 1 is: Keep your indoors separate from your outdoors. This applies to pets, clothes, tools, fluids and media. To the extent that you can achieve this, your pest-control knowledge and preventative measures will become less and less necessary! Remember, pests frequently arrive on clones. If you want to avoid them altogether, set up a sealed room and start from seed. Let's face it: Buying clones from strangers is promiscuous behavior.

Next, keep your environment proper and stable. Even if your plants might enjoy higher humidity, moisture is a germination signal for spores—and since air holds different quantities of water at different temperatures, large temperature swings can induce condensation in your growroom, which can germinate spores. Thus, smart growers keep humidity in check *throughout the room* in order to control fungi. This can mean wrapping cold-air ducts in

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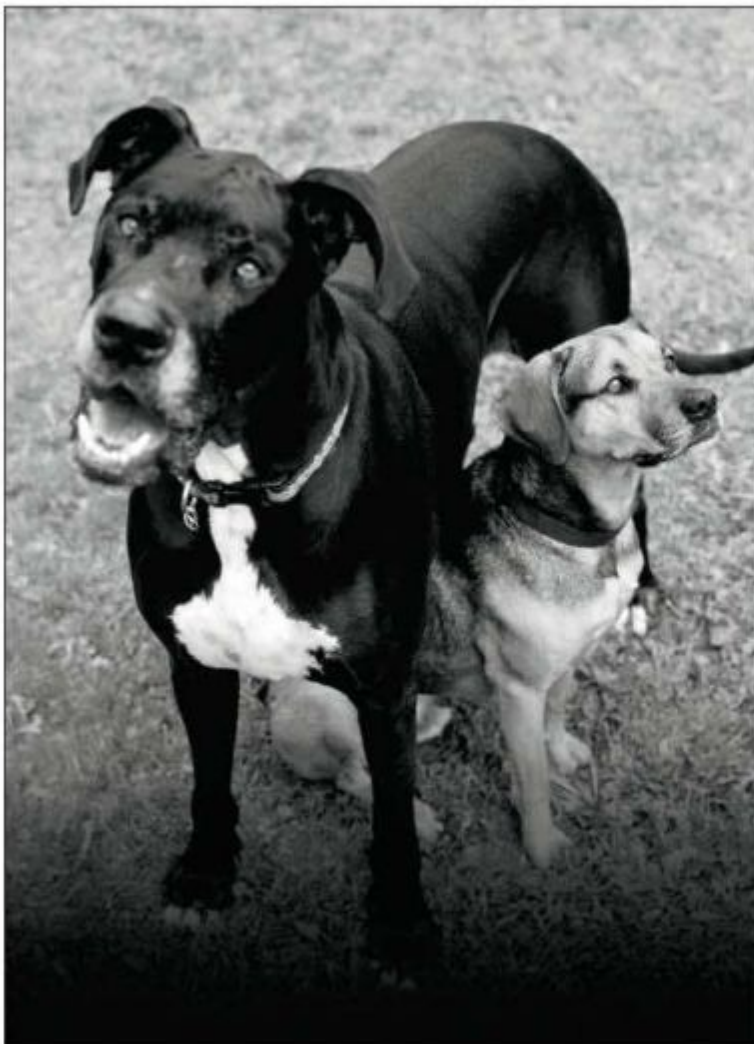
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Powdery mildew grows in gardens that have high humidity and temps below 70 F.

insulation in order to avoid condensation. Stay within 60% to 70% relative humidity (RH) during the vegetative phase, and 40% to 60% RH during flower.

Regulating temperature controls insect reproduction as well. Hot rooms require more treatments to control or eradicate pests simply because they replicate more bugs. Keep the plant-canopy temperature where the plant prefers it, around 76°F to 78°F.

Here are a few more important strategies:

- Don't imagine that you're mixing together some witches' brew. Creative pest-control mixtures can both alter the characteristics of the chemicals and damage your plants or yourself.
- Don't reuse your soil or soilless media unless the manufacturer has suggested it. Nature reconditions soil with microorganisms through a composting process. Don't try to bring outdoor compost inside your growroom, as this can introduce all sorts of unwanted house guests that have no natural controls indoors.
- Keep air moving over all the surfaces of your growroom in order to distribute moisture evenly throughout. At the same time, don't blast any particular plant with air to the extent that it has to struggle to maintain moisture, since any damage to your plants is an opportunity for pests to steal their sugars. Oscillating fans are perfect for satisfying both of these requirements, but a digital recycling timer will accomplish the same thing with stationary fans.
- Grow systems should always be thoroughly cleaned between cycles. If possible, water your plants by hand to avoid the use of plastic plumbing, which has tiny crevices inside that can accumulate dead matter over time. If the use of plumbing is unavoidable, replace it in its entirety every few grow cycles.

● Although it's no reason to avoid the challenge, keep in mind that hydroponic and aeroponic recirculating systems are generally more problematic in the root zone because recycling water favors the natural transportation of water molds and bacteria. Sterility can be a serious issue when you're trying to create a balanced microorganism ecosystem (i.e., organic hydroponics); in part, that's because pythium spores have tails that they can use for transport. Nutrient temperatures should be kept cool (below 70°F) in order to minimize pathogen issues in such systems.

● Some highly successful growers avoid creating a biological ecosystem altogether. Since hydrogen peroxide breaks down into oxygen and water as it kills pests, these growers top their recycling nutrients off with enough H₂O₂ to sterilize the fluid of all microorganisms at all times. Since the H₂O₂ degrades with exposure to light, this will work far better if the recycling nutrients are *never* exposed to light. This technique can create very large bundles of bright white roots.

MASTER GROWERS ARE STUDENTS OF THEIR PLANTS

Reading plants well enough to distinguish a pest issue from a chemical issue is a complicated task. By actively investigating information on how plants and pests are structured and behave, growers can develop a reliable intuition about their plants' health over time. Since pest symptoms can appear as obscure—and sometimes even ambiguous—clues before they explode into problems, growers who check on their plants as often as possible (while being careful not to infect them with additional pests) will learn their strains' expected behaviors well enough to know when something is trending wrong. And they will also notice such problems early—which can mean the difference between a routine application of chemicals, and a crisis. ✨

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BY ERIC SCHONER



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Price: \$34.50 (30 tablets); \$66 (60 tablets); \$94.50 (90 tablets); shipping not included. Also available in packs of 500, 1,000, 3,000 and 5,000. Contact: 918-786-6800, Humate Supreme, humatesupreme.com



NATURE'S FLUID

With over 100 types of plant nutrients already crowding the market, it's often hard for a new company to put down roots. However, emerging on the scene is Nature's Fluid, a Texas-based company that provides a no-fuss approach to giving your plants the nutrients they need throughout their growth cycle. Nature's Fluid is composed of organic humus and manure extracts that are processed to maintain the vital nutrition that plants need in order to flourish. Unlike other nutrient solutions that can burn and damage roots and leaves, Nature's Fluid is formulated to prevent harmful side effects from overfeeding. This micro-nutrient solution promotes rapid seed germination in as little as two days without fear of mutation. If application instructions are followed, 1 gallon of Nature's Fluid micro-nutrients will

feed approximately 10 plants for about two months. This modestly priced but effective solution also comes in three different sizes. *Price: \$14 (32 oz), \$27 (1 gal); \$72.75 (5 gal); shipping not included. Contact: Nature's Fluid, 903- 571-1787, naturesfluid.com*



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With a variety of odorless-storage products already on the market, there's a new company promoting an eco-friendly approach to storing your chosen herb, the Stink-In Storage Bag. This high-quality storage bag—manufactured by the good folks at the Stink-In Storage Bag Company—is not only durable and odor-proof, but recyclable as well. The bag comes in two convenient sizes, small (6" x 9" x 3.5") and large (11" x 12" x 5"), and the small bags come in your choice of either clear or black. Prefer to try one out first before you buy in bulk? The company also sells individual bags in both colors and sizes.

Price: \$9.95 (for 15 small clear bags, or 10 small black bags, or four large clear bags); \$1 (1 small clear bag); \$1.25 (1 small black bag); \$3 (1 large clear bag); shipping not included. Contact: The Stink-In Storage Bag, stinkinstoragebags.com

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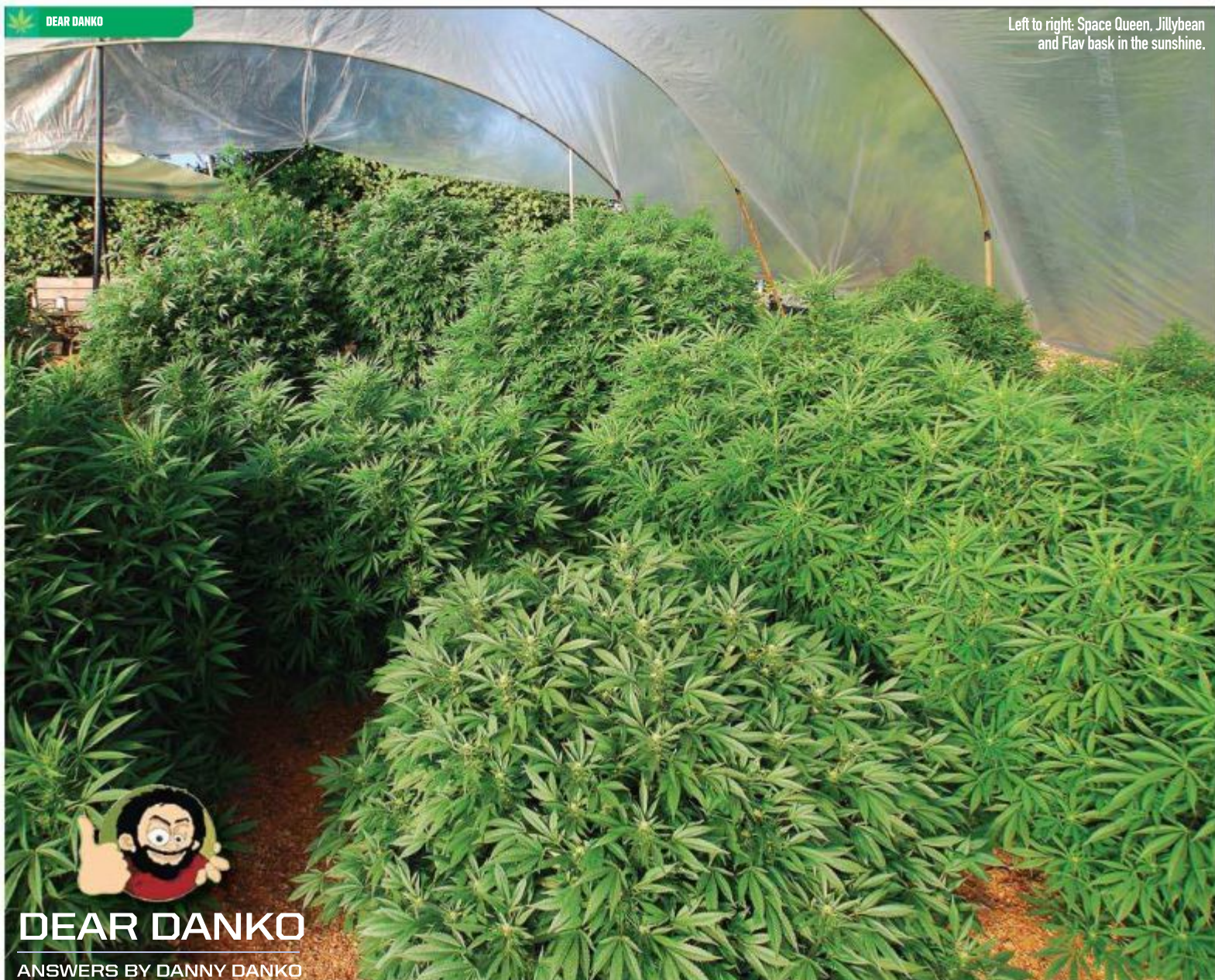
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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

LIGHTING FOR VEGETATIVE GROWTH

Which light is the best for seedlings and clones until they get growing? The light I'm using now is a 400-watt metal halide (MH), and it makes the seedlings grow so tall and skinny that they fall over. I've grown outside before, but I'm trying inside now for the first time. Please help!

Terry

Dear Terry,

Vegetative growth is the first stage of a pot plant's growth, extending from the seedling stage until you begin flowering by cutting the light cycle to a 12-hours-on/12-hours-off schedule. Plants require at least 18 hours of light during the vegetative stage in order to thrive, and also to avoid the stretching that you describe.

The high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp you're using—a 400-watt metal halide—is perfect for vegetative growth due to its intense blue-spectrum light, meant to simulate the summer sun. My suspicion is that your grow light is placed too far away from your seedlings, or else you aren't using it for the full 18 hours or more per day. If you determine that the former is true, lower the lamp and reflector closer to the seedlings—12 to 18 inches is best. If you find that the latter is true, use a timer to ensure

that your young vegetating plants receive at least 18 hours of full light per day. Either way, your seedlings should then start growing shorter and thicker stalks.

AUTOFLOWERING MOTHER PLANT

I've got three Blueberry mothers (three months old) that are growing well and have provided me with several clones. The problem is that one of the females doesn't want to stay in the vegetative stage despite 20 hours of light per day. She's in full bloom, and it's difficult for me to clone her because of the buds and not enough stem and leaves. Even her clones don't want to grow—they just sit at about 4 to 5 inches tall and then bloom regardless of the light cycle. The daytime temperature is quite low at 65°F to 75°F and dry at 45% to 55% humidity. The other two Blueberry mother plants are doing well, however, and so are my two Kali Mist mothers; they're all about 3 feet tall. What should I do?

Preecha

Dear Preecha,

Your auto-flowering mother plant is pretty much worthless. Let her finish flowering and focus on maintaining the health of your remaining mother plants. The problem is that she and any clones

you manage to take from her will revert to the flowering stage no matter what the light situation. This is why auto-flowering plants are grown from seeds.

Clones taken from any flowering plant will have a difficult and strenuous time switching back to the vegetative stage, but clones taken from an auto-flowering plant almost never do. The only thing you could potentially do with your plant is to try to breed with it, but even that is probably best left to the experts. Be thankful for your four other normal mother plants and take clones from those to your heart's content.

WHITE-POWDER BLUES

I have a serious problem that I've never experienced in my years of farming: My plants' leaves have a fuzzy white film on them, and some have stopped growing altogether. What is this stuff, and why is it happening?

Apple Jack

Dear AJ,

Sounds like you have a problem with powdery mildew (PM). This airborne fungus is a plague to farmers in many regions, with the Pacific Northwest being particularly vulnerable. The mold attacks during both humid and dry

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DEAR DANKO

Once clones are showing roots poking through the bottom, they are ready to be placed into their growing medium.

weather and forms patches of gray or white fuzz. PM spreads quickly under the right conditions and causes reduced yields and even plant death when left untreated.

Many treatments exist to reduce the spread of PM, including sulfur burners, Floramite, various fungicides and neem oil, but most only control the problem without fully eliminating it. The best preventative is to provide plenty of air circulation, as stagnant air makes a perfect incubator for molds.

A company called Dutch Master makes two products called Zone and Penetrator that have shown promise when plants are dunked fully in diluted solutions made from them. Another useful new product for dealing with PM is called Eagle 20EW—but keep in mind that it is a systemic poison and should *never* be used on flowering plants. Due to the potential toxicity of this product (and others like it), I find it tough to recommend it in all but the most severe and devastating outbreaks of “the powdery,” as it’s sometimes called. Consider it only as a “nuclear

option” and, no matter what, always rotate the products that you choose to use against PM or pests of any kind.

Another more reasonable and forward-thinking approach is to try to grow strains that are naturally more resistant to PM. Many varieties bred in Canada and other parts of the Pacific Northwest boast this quality as a matter of necessity. Do some research on the cannabis strains acclimated to your area and you should be able to find something that fights off PM better.

WHAT'S CLONING?

I've always grown from seeds, and it's sometimes annoying not to know exactly what I'm gonna get. How would I go about taking cuttings or clones in order to have reliable strains growing that I can trust to be females and act alike? Thanks!

Beanie Man

Dear BM,
Cloning is the process of taking a shoot from a plant and creating a new plant from it identical to

the "parent" by inducing it to grow roots. This process ensures that each clone will be an identical duplicate of the mother plant, resulting in uniform growth and a level canopy height.

Cloning is done by using a sharp blade to remove a 3- to 5-inch branch from your mother plant, cutting at a 45-degree angle just below the node (the place where a branch protrudes from the stalk). Clones should be taken with at least three sets of leaves above the cut, and the cut end must immediately be dipped in a rooting hormone (typically a powder or gel) and then placed in the moistened medium of your choice. Some people like to put them into a shot glass of water in order to keep an air bubble from penetrating up the stem and killing the young cutting.

Clones need to be kept under lights in warm, moist conditions. Within one to two weeks, you should see roots emerging from the bottom of your cloning medium. Your cuttings are now ready to be transplanted into larger containers and start their full-fledged vegetative growth.

MICROBES IN HYDRO

Quick question about beneficial organisms: My friend is an organic inspector in California. He tells me that in order to maintain beneficial life in my medium, I must use only organic fertilizers, and I believed him for a while. But now I see all these new products containing beneficial fungi and bacteria meant to be used in hydro systems in conjunction with synthetic fertilizers. What's the deal? Can beneficial organisms survive when using standard (synthetic) hydroponic nutrients? Thanks a lot!

Dr. Stern

Dear Dr. S.,

It's true that beneficial bacteria thrive in organic environments, but there are also synthetic formulas in which they'll survive and multiply (as long as some organic materials are present). Many of the newer formulations of hydroponic nutrients are a combination of organic and synthetic chemicals in which helpful microorganisms will flourish.

Beneficial organisms can also be applied directly to the leaves using a foliar-feeding system. This way, even chemical nutrients in the root zone have no effect on your microbes, yet they can still help growth as well as pest and disease resistance. Always be sure to limit chemical-pesticide use during applications of bacteria. My favorite way to do this is with an oxygenated compost tea. It's cheap, easy to use and hard to overdo.


CROWDING STRAINS

Hello, I'm a first-time grower preparing a cannabis-cultivation cycle in the near future. I plan to use a small and simple hydroponic system. My question is this: Can I grow three or four different strains in my system close together? What can go wrong?

Fish

Dear Fish,

What you're attempting to do is difficult, especially for a first-time grower. You can have several strains in the same unit, but you need to keep a few things in mind. First of all, strains have different growth traits, meaning that some will grow taller more quickly or branch out more than others. Also, different strains require different amounts of nutrients, so it can be hard to dial in a




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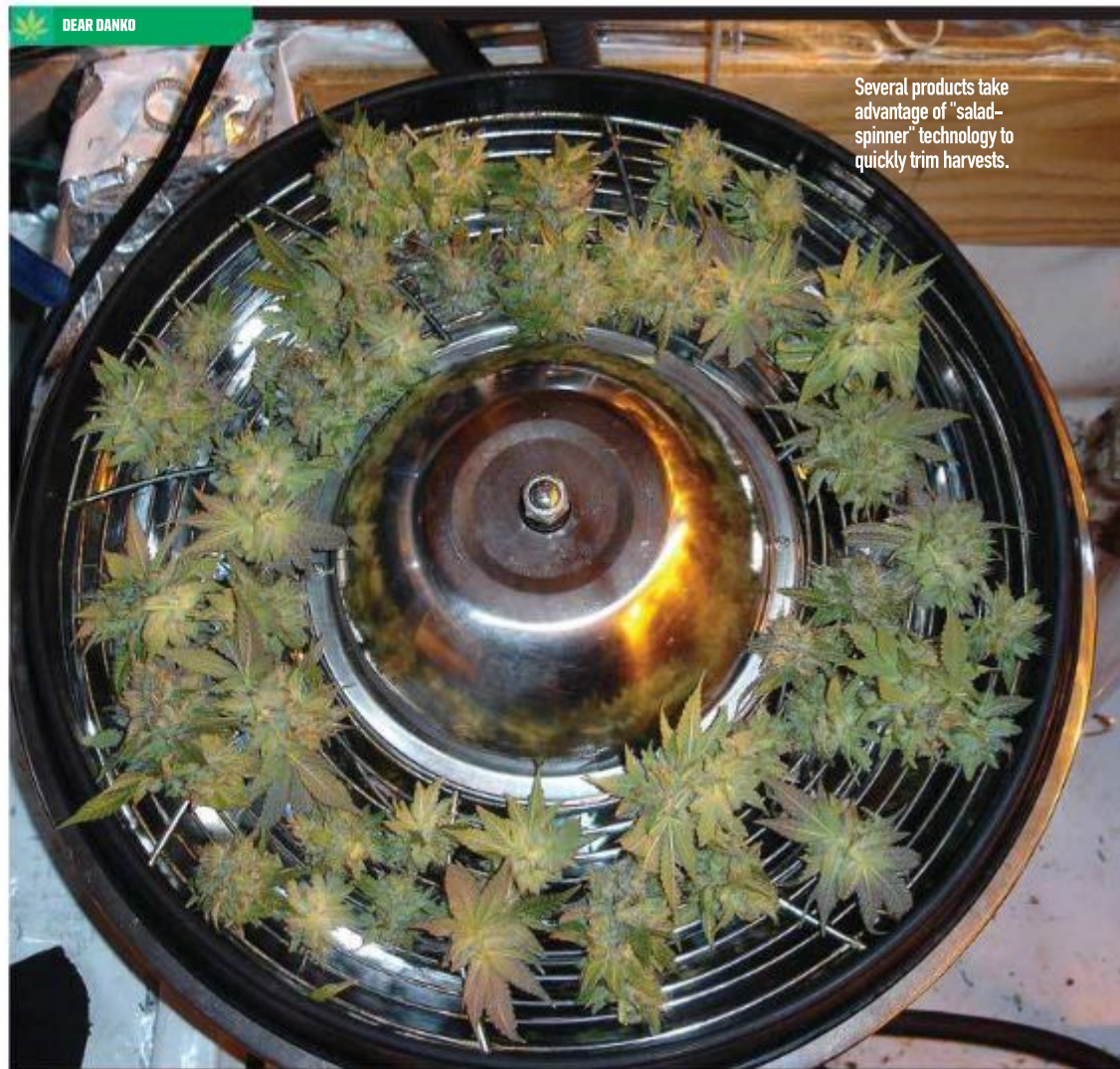
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DEAR DANKO

Several products take advantage of "salad-spinner" technology to quickly trim harvests.

perfect formula for all of them at the same time in the same reservoir.

If you still plan to attempt this, try getting strains that act similarly, such as three *indicas* or three *sativas* with roughly equal flowering times. Otherwise, grow the plants separately in buckets using either a soilless mix or a deep-water culture (DWC) set-up in which each plant has its own container.

CURLING LEAVES

I recently fed my plants some nutrient solution, and now the leaves are curling down and starting to become brittle. The tips are brown and crumbly, and the leaves look like they're trying to literally curl up into themselves. What did I do?

Canadian Bakin'

Dear CB,
 Sounds like a classic case of overfeeding to me. I think you used too much fertilizer in your last watering, and the plants are responding to high levels of salts in the root zone by curling up and browning from the tips of the leaves inward.

Flush your plants with plenty of plain pH-balanced water until it flows freely out of the bottom of your pots. When you resume feeding, do so at half the recommended dosage and see what happens. Forget about the old burnt and curled leaves and focus on the new growth. If your new shoots look healthy, you've eliminated the toxic levels of ferts and can continue with your plant growth. If not, try another flushing with even more water in case there's still a buildup in your pots.

OUTDOOR FEEDING

Greetings from the Peach State! This is my second season growing, and my question is: How often should I fertilize my patch? I'm growing outdoors, and since the ground around here has a really high clay content, I have taken to digging "pots" and filling them with potting soil. The soil I'm using is an organic commercial type that supposedly fertilizes on its own for three months. I used the same product last season, but my yield for three plants was pretty low (about half a pound). I'm thinking of using high-nitrogen alfalfa pellets as well as worm castings. Is this a good combo? And again, how often can I fertilize without burning up my girls or causing any other stress?

Copter Dodger

Dear CD,
 It sounds like your low yield isn't due to a lack of fertilizer. Remember that more food doesn't always mean more buds—in fact, too much nutrient can be devastating to your crop. Always err on the side of caution.

Your best bet is to use mild nutes such as compost tea and diluted formulas with liquid seaweed or fish. Your idea to use alfalfa pellets and worm castings is a good one as well. Make sure your plants get plenty of plain water throughout their growth cycle, and be sure your patch gets plenty of sunlight as well. A lack of sun can keep plants from thriving outdoors; I've seen this problem in many guerrilla grows.

ERIK BIKSA

DROOPING LEAVES IN HYDRO

I recently transplanted my vegging plants into my flowering hydroponic unit, and the leaves immediately began to droop. Now they're all drooping drastically, and some of the plants have even died! My pH level is 5.0 to 5.5; the water temperature in my reservoir is around 80°F; the room temperature is around 80°F to 85°F; and the relative humidity is stable at 55% to 65%. What's my problem?

Weeping Willie

Dear WW,

My initial diagnosis is that your pH is a bit low and the temperature of the nutrient solution is too high. As water temps rise, the amount of dissolved oxygen decreases. Your plants' roots are too hot and gasping for air, and the leaves are responding by drooping. The lower pH level adds to your woes, as some nutrients are being locked out completely.

Using pH up, raise your pH level to 6.0 and lower the temperature of your nutrient solution to between 60°F and 70°F. This can best be done using a reservoir chiller, but cheaper ways include freezing a 2-liter bottle of water and placing it in your reservoir. Keep in mind that this will be a very temporary solution to a continuous problem. Raise the oxygen level in your reservoir using an air pump and air stones as well.

BEGINNER STRAIN FOR MOTHER PLANTS

I'm about to start growing, and I was wondering what a good strain for beginners would be. I was considering an auto-flowering strain, but they're pretty expensive. Also, how do you turn one of your female plants into a mother plant that keeps on putting out high-quality clones? Thanks for all your help, and keep the revolution going!

Revolt Reggae

Dear RR,

The best strains for beginners are typically short, stocky, quick-flowering *indicas*, so try to find plants with traits like these in their descriptions. Avoid the lanky and longer-flowering *sativas* until you've had a chance to experiment with more easy-to-grow strains. I like White Widow, Sensi Star and Northern Lights, but there are plenty out there to choose from.

As for mother plants, take a cutting from each of your vegetative plants, then root it and flower it (see my answer to Beanie Man in "What's Cloning?" above for details). This will give you an indication of each plant's sex and a small amount of bud from each one to test. When you've chosen the female you wish to keep via clones, keep that plant in the vegging stage and she becomes your mother plant without ever having to flower on her own (thereby avoiding the stress of re-vegging an already-flowering plant). Now you have a vegetating mother plant with reliably potent female clones that you can take from her and flower whenever you wish. ✨



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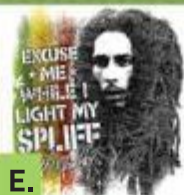


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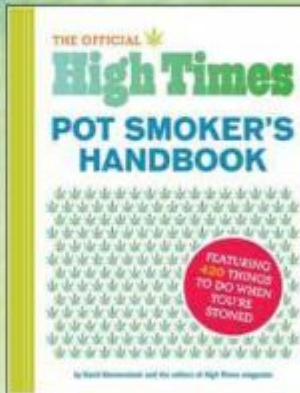
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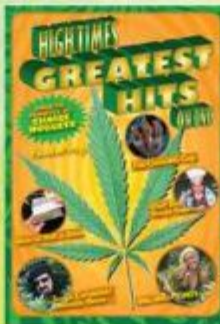
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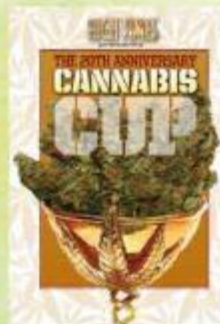
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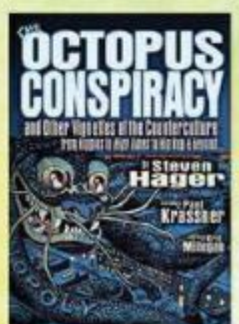
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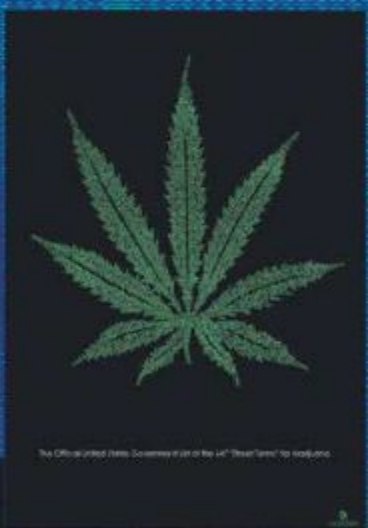
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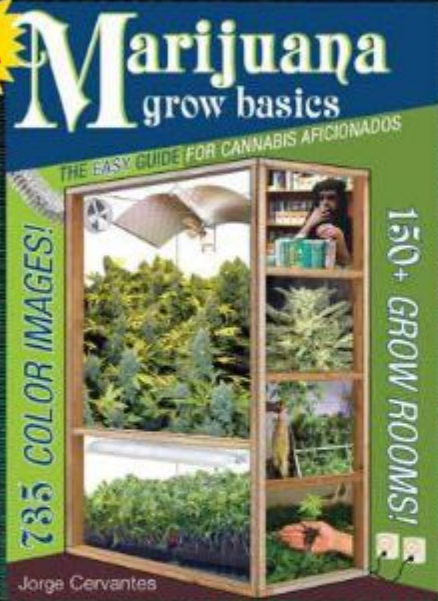
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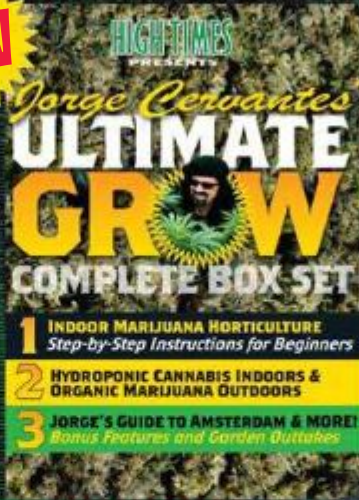


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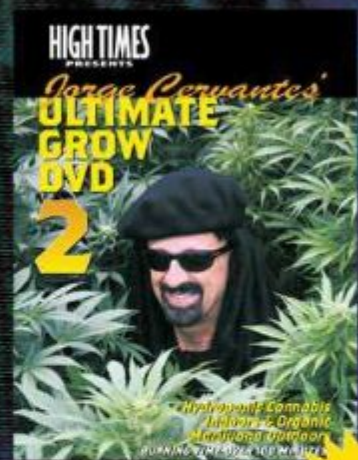
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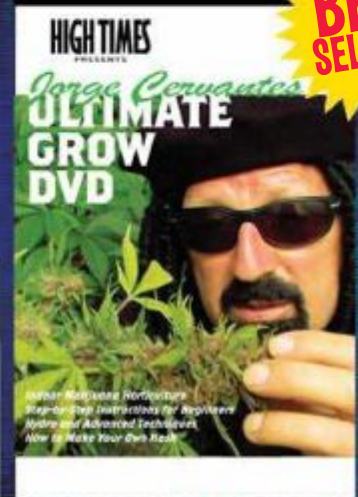
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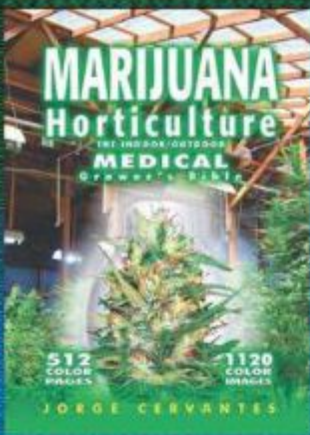
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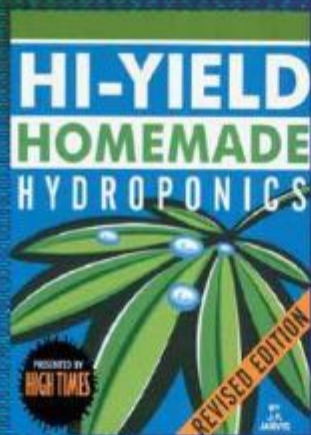
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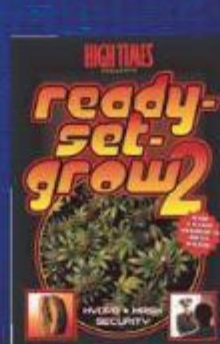
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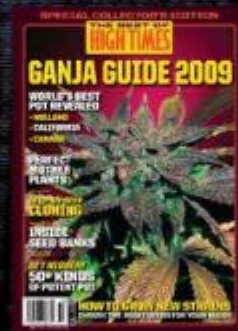
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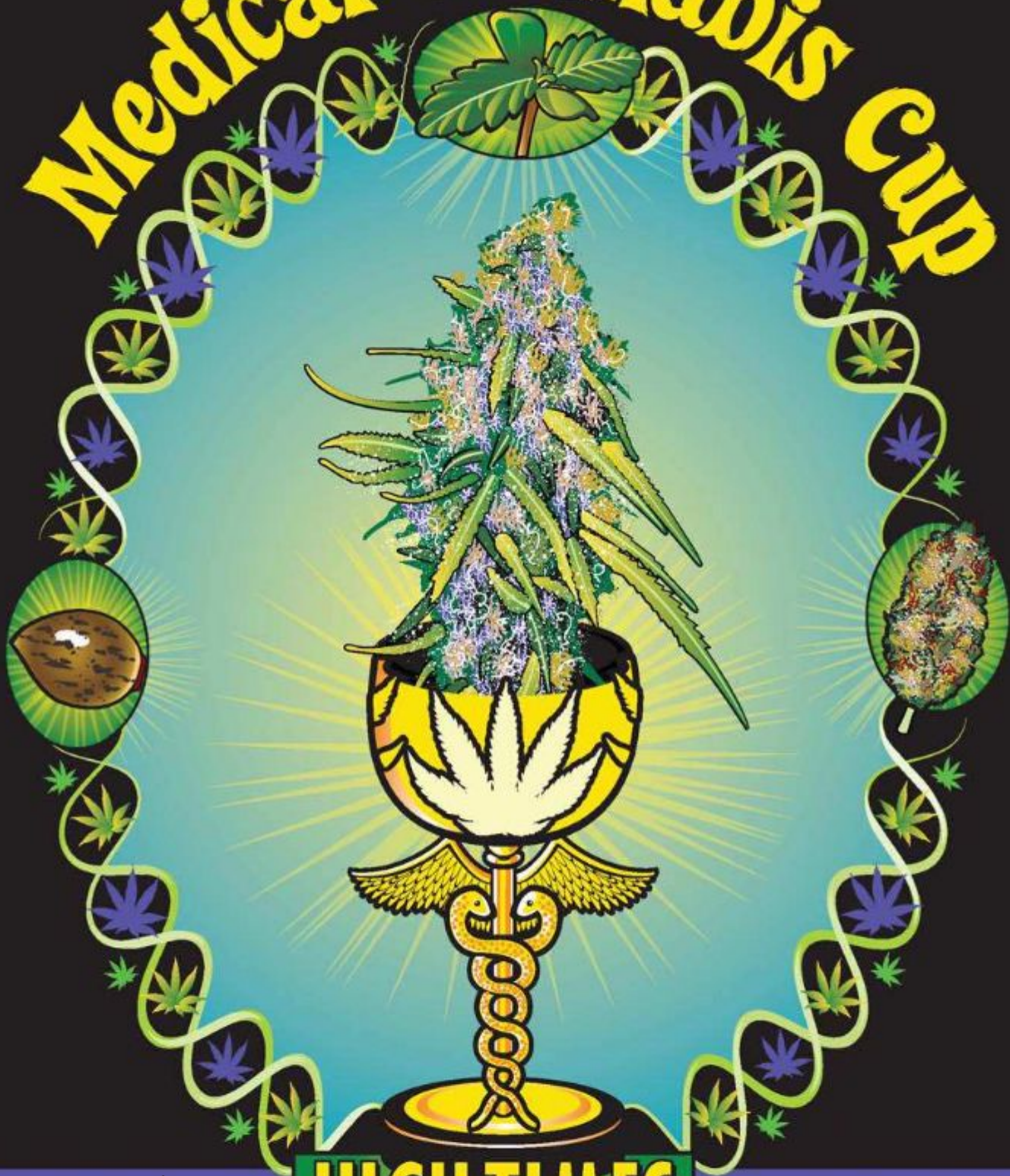
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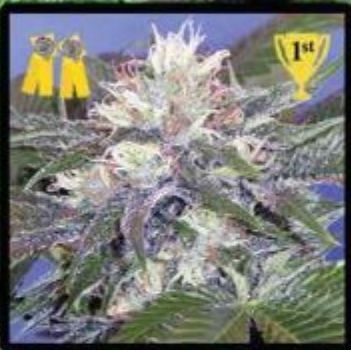
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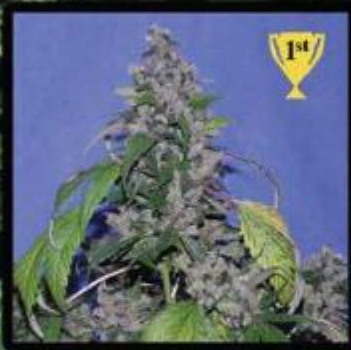
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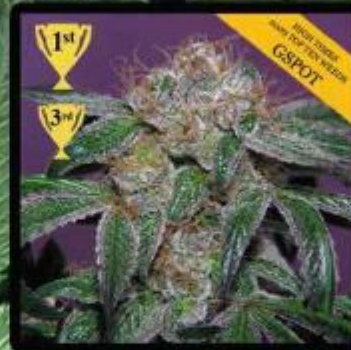
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Burmese	\$85
Burmaberry	\$85
Bush Bud	\$62
Canadian	\$80

Che	\$75
Copperhead	\$75
Dubble Bubble	\$75
Eve	\$75
Fucking Incredible	\$140
Gold	\$75
GSPOT	\$105
Indigo	\$80
Jinn	\$85
Kat	\$85
KGB	\$62
Midnight	\$75
Mystic	\$85
Nuclear	\$85
Olympic	\$62
Passionfruit	\$85
Ripper	\$85
Rx	\$75
Sin	\$75

Sweet	\$75
The Producer	\$100
THC	\$75
Titanium	\$75
Vertigo	\$75
Virgin	\$62
WMD	\$70
WOWWeed	\$100
VISC Mix	\$50



10 Seeds	Per Pack
Mother	\$70
Stealth	\$75
Lady Liberty	\$85
Infinity	\$65
Justice	\$70

Read about VISC's Induction into The Seed Bank HALL OF FAME in the August 2009 issue of High Times

Complete this form, or on a separate paper, include the product name, quantity, item price and order total. Send along with payment in the form of CASH or BLANK Money Order to:

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Subtotal _____
Rush _____
S&H \$ 7.00
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 Include \$10 for Photo Catalogue CD.

Pot-pourri Special
VISC Mix with each Order
That's TEN Free Seeds!

Acquisition of live cannabis seeds is illegal in the United States. Cannabis growers and consumers are one of the largest unrepresented blocks of voters in the world. This can change. We can end the persecution of innocent people, have more affordable Marijuana and a more peaceful world; if we stand

funding our schools and hospitals or used to reduce our debts. Legalize and tax Marijuana and the income generated can change our world. Grow and help the world grow too.

ground and demand it. Decriminalize Cannabis and instead of spending our tax dollars destroying lives, money could be spent

FUCKING INCREDIBLE High Times Top 10 Strains 2008

The Legend of the BURMESE See High Times January 2009

GSPOT High Times Top 10 Strains of 2009

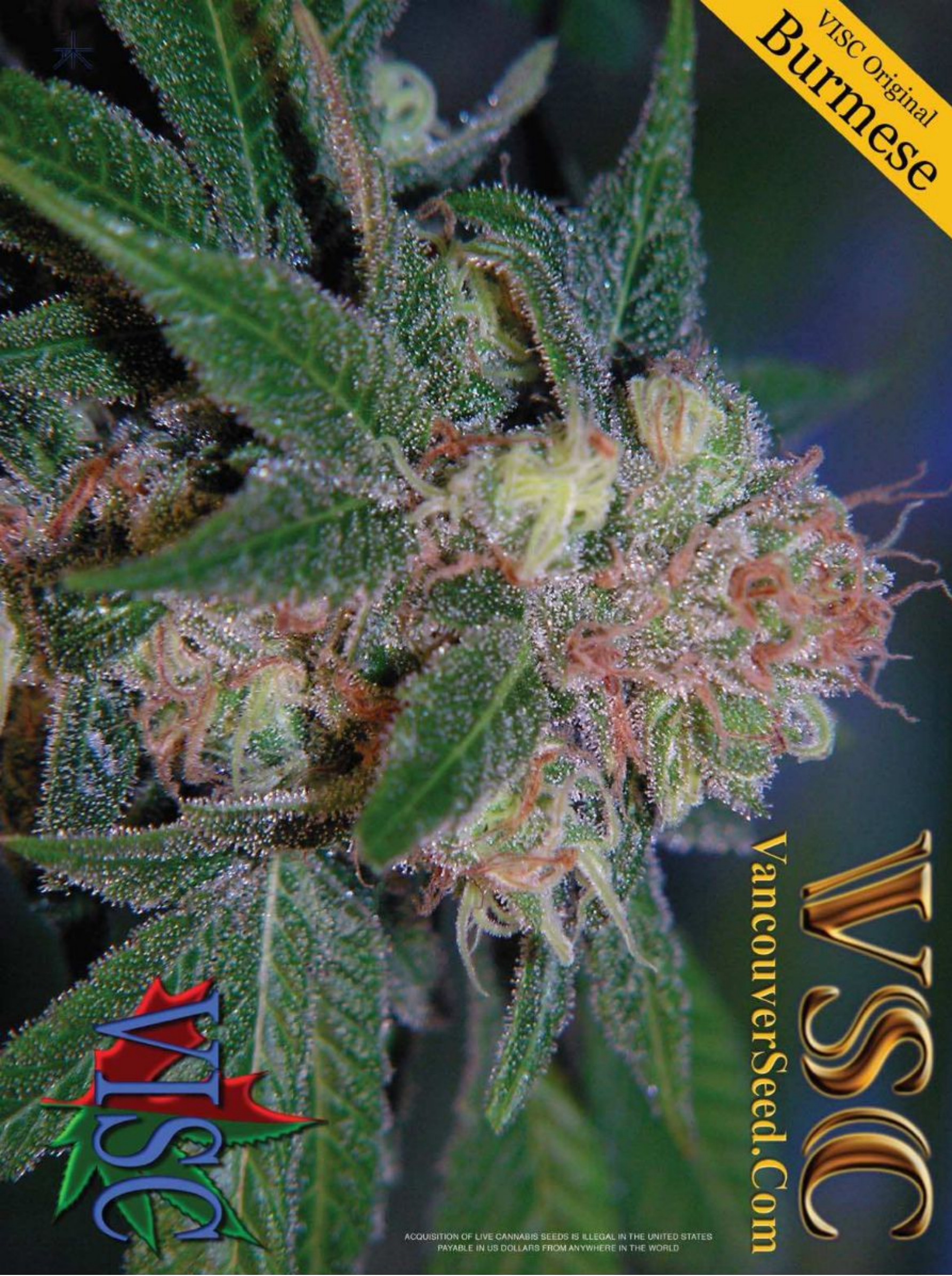
VISC Original
Burmese

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